Welcome to 2020!!! This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council!! Fifty years ago, a small but highly successful group of people from Phoenix joined with a shared vision and together they coordinated the preservation of the Desert Mountains in the Phoenix area. When you look back on this local group – horseback riders, hikers, and lovers of the beauty of the Desert Mountains; their vision of protection and preservation is wonderful and amazing.

PMPC’s – 50th Anniversary

FALL In The Mountains 2020

Saturday, TBA, 2020 – North Mountain Visitor’s Center

Our celebration will focus on celebrating our wonderful PMPC Founders for beginning this amazing preservation, and celebrate those members who continue to embrace and share their desert preservation vision for now and into the future!

The biggest current threat to the Phoenix Mountains Preserves is population growth. Phoenix is the capital and most populous city in Arizona, with 1,660,272 people (as of 2018). It is almost now the fifth most populous city in the United States, and the only state capital with a population of more than one million residents. Growth in the Phoenix area continues at an incomparable rate, good for business, and a time to strengthen the protection of our desert preserves. President’s Message continued on Page 6
HOT TOPICS:
- Preserve: Threats & Concerns
  - Population Growth
  - Invasive Species
  - Pollution
  - Drought - Wildfires
  - Developments
- Trail 25: Lookout MT Access
- Piestewa Water Pipeline
- MacEwen – Sonoran Preserve

PMPC Board Meetings:

Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.
All are welcome to join us!

April 6th, Monday: at NMVC
or by telephone conference,
more information to follow

Annual Meeting!
May 4th, Monday: at NMVC
5:30-6:30 pm: ANNUAL MEETING
6:30-7:00 pm: Social Interaction
7:00 pm: DINNER
Special Guest Speaker TBA!
SAVE THE DATE!

PRESERVE: Threats and Concerns
By: Patrick McMullen, PhD, PMPC Acting President

Phoenix Mountains Preserve is made up of islands of Sonoran Desert Mountains, surrounded by an ever growing ocean of urbanization. Long ago, the mountains and valleys were one continuous ecosystem. Native plant and animal species thrived; creating connections expanding far beyond the valley. These ancient linkages and connectivity are incredibly important to the survival of many native species. As urbanization grows, the built environment stifles and reduces links and connectivity. Over time, some native species became too small to maintain population diversity; others have become unique ‘island only’ species. Our Preserves offer unique respites to rest and restore us. “Exposure to nature reduces depression, anxiety and stress! Time spent in nature provides a wealth of mental health benefits.”

POPULATION GROWTH: Maricopa County is growing faster than any other USA county. Pundits estimate we are growing by 200 people a day. As we grow, our urban areas become denser. Growth creates strong demands for MORE: Housing, jobs, retail venues, solutions for an increasing homeless population, and more power and water. More users seeking the beauty and solitude of our preserved islands of pristine desert. City of Phoenix has been proactive in creating Chapter 26, which created the Preserves.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Buffelgrass and Stinknet create a microclimate around them; are hostile to native flora and fauna, and use their water, nutrients and space. For more information, see the full Invasive Species article on page 5.

POLLUTION: Air, water, noise and light pollution all grow as Phoenix grows. Pollution can create respiratory infections in birds, stunt plant growth, reduce photosynthesis and increase disease risk from weather and insects. Plants help to offset some of these effects by absorbing carbon dioxide and filtering air and water. Roots can hold water and biomass dampens noise. Robert Ukeiley, attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, “To give our most imperiled plants and animals a better chance at survival, the EPA has to do its job and ensure these species are not choking on toxic air.” US District Court, Northern District, Oakland, CA, issued order on February 19, 2020; EPA must either approve a state-created plan or create its own plan for reducing particulate pollution across Arizona by June 2021.

DROUGHT – WILDFIRES: Recent rainfall in the past two years has reduced our drought crisis status; but more years of above normal rainfall are needed to fully restore the drought effect. Heavy winter spring rains grow an abundance of desert plants; but over the dry and hot summer, this abundance withers and dies, creating potential fuel for wildfires. Wildfire in the desert only benefits certain invasive species; our native plants are devastated by fire and do not naturally reseed.

DEVELOPMENTS: More growth means the borders and boundaries of the Preserves are continually targets for abuse. The 25th ST is a result of a contractor using a strip of the Preserve as a construction zone for a neighboring HOA. MacEwen proposes to triple the number of homes the current zoning allows.

PMPC needs to continue to work collaboratively with the City to maintain and protect our Preserves from all the challenges facing the Preserves and PMPC needs to continue to be vigilant on all the challenges the Preserve areas face.

In Celebration of our

50th Anniversary

of the founding of

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council (PMPC)

WHERE:
North Mountain Visitor Center
12950 N 7th ST
Phoenix, AZ 85022

1.2-mile North of Peoria AVE
0.5-mile South of Thunderbird

WHAT:
Exhibit Room Activities
Coffee and Treats
Live Music
Book Reading:
Story of Camelback Mountain

COST:
Festivities Are Free To All
Registration for Hikes required

WHEN:
Saturday: TBA, 2020
7 AM -- 2 PM

HIKES: “Take a Hike -- Do It Right”
6:30 AM  Birding Hike
7:00 AM  Canine Hike
8:00 AM  Advanced Hiker’s Trek
9:00 AM  Family Hike
10:00 AM Guided Nature Walk

Hikers, trekkers and walkers must register in person at least 15-minutes before the hike starts.

Be prepared. Bring one water bottle per person, sunscreen, a hat, and appropriate trail footwear.

For more information, e-mail: pmpcaz@gmail.com

EXHIBITS:
7 AM – 2 PM  NMVC Education Room:
Multiple tables with information displays hosted by our partners in protecting and preserving the natural pristine desert.

Several special featured guest speakers will be make presentations during this Celebration, in the NMVC Education Room.

7 AM – 2 PM  Outdoor Exhibits and Demonstrations:
Demonstration: ‘Tall Pot’ method to plant native desert trees
Invasive species impacting the Sonoran desert
Native Sonoran Plants
TRAIL 25: Lookout Mountain Access

by: Jesse L. Cuilty, MPA; President of Hillcrest IX HOA, with information from Terry Horne, Save Our Mountains; and Patrick McMullen, PhD, PMPC Acting President

Gosnell Development Corp. developed the Pointe Golf Club on Lookout Mountain in the mid 1980’s. Today it is known as the Pointe Mountainside Golf Community Association (PMGC). Multi-use Trail Easements (MUTES) were dedicated throughout the PMGC property, to give homeowners and the public access to Lookout Mountain. At this time, Lookout was isolated from the main body of the preserve. Part of Gosnell’s site development was to provide the trail and trail signage. The land was sold to four developers. This trail was never completed.

In 1997, a partnership of Phoenix Park Rangers Staff, PMPG, the Pointe Hilton and local church volunteers worked together to install signage and groom the entire trail, along the MUTE that runs through the golf course area. This mile-long trail, known as Trail 25, connects Lookout Mountain to the Preserve south of Thunderbird Road.

Finding the real Trail 25 is challenging. City maps show Trail 25 and 25A as dedicated trails. Maps are redrawn and reissued over time. The location of Trail 25 varies on these maps. Missing or improperly placed trail markers adds to hiker confusion. Lack of regular trail maintenance creates more uncertainty as to the true trail location.

These stakeholder groups are working collaboratively together to resolve the issues and share information.

Ultimately, verifying the location and status of Trail 25 and other MUTES dedicated through the PMGC property, and identifying which are/will be designated trails by the City of Phoenix, is the purpose a Trails Master Plan Study for the North Area of the Phoenix Mountains Preserve generally, and Lookout Mountain specifically.

PMGC, Hillcrest and PMPC issued a formal request to Councilwoman Stark to initiate this study. Their request is to move this study forward by adding this issue to the next PSPMPPC and Parks Board agendas.

PSPMPPC and Parks Board meetings are open to the public. Individuals and groups interested in preserving Trail 25 access to Lookout Mountain are encouraged to attend and speak in favor of the Trails Master Plan Study.

The March PSPMPPC meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Please stay informed on the status of these public meetings by checking the City and PMPC websites.

UPDATE: Taylor Morrison Verdin (MacEwen) -- Sonoran Preserve

by: Patrick McMullen, PhD, PMPC Acting President, and Susanne Rothwell, Past President of PMPC, served on the Desert Character Overlay committee

Taylor Morrison Verdin (formerly MacEwen 480) is a 488-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD). This site is pristine desert adjacent to the Sonoran Desert Preserve, located south of Sonoran Desert Drive, between Cave Creek and Apache Washes, and incorporates the smaller Mesquite Wash. This PUD will set a precedent for all future developments adjacent to the Sonoran Desert Preserve and along Sonoran Desert Drive. The northern third of this site is under the ‘Desert Character Overlay District’ (DCOD), per Section 653 of the Phoenix Zoning Ordinance. The DCOD is the result of hundreds of man-hours, committed to thoughtfully and specifically ensure the native desert areas adjacent to the Preserve are not eclipsed by future housing developments that disregard the fragile beauty of the desert. Present zoning is S-1 or one home-site per 35,000 SF; or about 500 homes. Their PUD proposes to increase the zoning to allow about 1,420 home sites!

Save Our Sonoran Preserve (SOSP) is a local community group; focus is to encourage the developer to respect the ‘Desert Character Overlay’ and advocate for our beloved preserve. PMPC and SOSP representatives attend Desert View Village Planning Committee meetings and will continue to vigilantly monitor this PUD. This project is currently on hold, awaiting the developer to send the City a resubmittal and general plan amendment.

For more information, read: Fall 2019 LOOKOUT edition for Susanne Rothwell’s expanded article on the McEwen proposed zoning change; www.phoenixmountains.org
UPDATE: Pipeline
By: Libby Goff, PMPC Board Secretary

The neighborhood community and PMPC shared concerns over the 66-inch-diameter pipeline route location, with the inevitable construction dust and traffic delays, as well as direct damage to the Piestewa Preserve.

In January, the City Council approved an intergovernmental agreement with ADOT for permanent use of a right-of-way, next to SR-51, as a different route for the 66-inch-diameter pipeline. While PMPC is delighted that this new route will be less destructive to the Preserve, PMPC will continue to be vigilant in following this project, to verify the City and ADOT agreement is finalized. In addition, PMPC is still hoping that the portion of the northern section of the planned route that goes ‘far east’ through the Preserve, may be rerouted to a less destructive and invasive path.

The pipeline is needed to provide an alternative water supply to north Phoenix, in addition to the current Colorado water source the area uses.

Libby Goff, PMPC Secretary, was quoted, “This is clearly a win and it’s much better than it was before. The pipeline will not be going through the most pristine area and it will be a lot less disruption for the neighborhood and the school (Madison Heights Elementary School). Any time you disturb the desert, it just doesn’t recover well. In most cases it’s never the same as before it was disturbed. We’re going to continue to watch this and work with the City on this.”

For more information, please read both articles:
1 https://northcentralnews.net/2020/features/dream-draw-area-to-close-for-installation/

UPDATE: Invasives
By: Anita Herrick, PMPC member

The revised Arizona State Noxious Weed List became law on Jan. 4, 2020. The updated rule is posted on the AZ Dept. of Agriculture website.

Per AZDA R3-4-245 Noxious Weeds:
Buffelgrass, Pennisetum ciliare, “Class B Noxious Weed” and may be recommended for active control based on risk assessment.

Buffelgrass grows densely and crowds out native plants of similar size. Competition for water can weaken and kill larger desert plants. Dense roots and ground shading prevent germination of seeds. Buffelgrass can kill most native plants by these means alone. However, buffelgrass also provides an intense fuel for wildfires and sprouts vigorously after fires, where most native desert plants are killed — including the saguaros.

Stinknet, Oncosiphon piluliferum, “Class B Noxious Weed” and may be a high priority pest for quarantine, control or mitigation if a significant threat to crop, commodity, or habitat exists.

Arizona Native Plant Society has an updated Stinknet flyer. Their website: https://aznps.com/invasive-plants/

Perform Stinknet weed control before plants go to seed. Infestations allowed to propagate over several seasons will form dense stands with prolific seed production. Manually dig out Stinknet in residential areas as soon as it is recognized. Remove plants before they develop mature seeds. A Stinknet stand established for two years, may require chemical control by a licensed commercial applicator.

Updated herbicide recommendations: www.swvma.org.
2 https://kenneturner.com/2013/01/24/buffelgrass-is-more-dangerous-to-the-saguaro-cactus-than-freezing-temperatures/

Arizona Legislature’s PMPC Proclamation
By: Libby Goff, PMPC Board Secretary

Mark your calendars!
March 16th is the day for the PMPC PROCLAMATION at the Arizona Legislature, as a part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of PMPC. Originally some PMPC board members were going to be allowed on the House Floor and in the House Gallery during the Proclamation. However, as a part of precautions related to the COVID-19 outbreak, no visitors will be allowed in the House Building that day (or for the foreseeable future). To watch the PMPC Proclamation as it is being read live on the House floor, please use this online link:
https://azleg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=6

House Floor action is scheduled to start around 1:15 PM. Proclamations and introductions are the first thing on the agenda. Representative Aaron Lieberman will read a statement about PMPC, and may specifically honor our founding members of PMPC, including Maxine Lakin.
PRESIDENT’s MESSAGE . . .  

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said, “This growing population places an even greater importance on the responsibility the City has to continue providing high quality services to the public - we need to do more than just keep up with growth, we need to be ahead of it. Whether it’s safe and affordable housing, diverse transportation options, or a fantastic cultural scene, we need to deliver.” Our Mayor supports the protection of the Mountain Preserves – it is a part of the exceptional fantastic cultural scene we enjoy in Phoenix.

Take a good look at the current issues and events PMPC monitors and participates in – to ensure the generational protection of our desert mountain preserves. Notice that many of the current issues are linked to the population growth in Phoenix.

The biggest current issues PMPC is involved with include: the Water Service “Drought Pipeline” route along Dreamy Draw area. We have been attending meetings, and coordinating with the Pipeline 22nd Street Neighborhood folks to keep the pipeline out of the Preserve and to protect the neighborhood from major construction impact through their tiny streets. There is also Trail#25 Closure at the Lookout Mountain section that connects to North Mountain Preserve. Seems there has been some confusion regarding the public maps of the three trails going north through the three tunnels under Thunderbird and up through the golf course, and the city streets in that area. The first response from the City of Phoenix was to close a particular section of the North Mountain Access Trail and just to have the public access along the sidewalks leading to Lookout Mountain. PMPC continues to monitor Trail 25 to confirm that Lookout Mountain does not become an isolated island of the Phoenix Preserve system.

Urban Forests – Shade Canopy

By: Anita Herrick, PMPC member

In 2010, ASU and the City of Phoenix adopted a plan to create an urban forest in the city. The goal of the Tree and Shade Master Plan is to have a 25% tree canopy in Phoenix by 2030.

ASU and the forestry team have worked together to illustrate the importance of Urban Tree Planting and to share their findings that the financial, environmental, and social benefits of planting the right trees in the urban environment will greatly outweigh the cost of the tree planting and maintenance. ¹

Trees prevent rainwater runoff and soil erosion, reduce energy costs, help us all to breathe better, are a natural property border and noise blocker, and provide us with beauty and evoke a sense of pride in our neighborhood and community. Trees provide much needed shade and cooling, are proven stress relievers, air filters, and a habitat for wildlife. In areas with more tree cover, crime is reduced, shoppers spend an average of 9 to 12% more money, people are more active, and property values are higher. ²

Average temperatures and frequency of heat waves in Phoenix have increased in recent decades. Plus, the urban heat island effect is worse in areas where trees are absent as heat radiates off the pavement at night. ³

PMPC encourages planting native Sonoran desert trees. They require no watering to survive once established. Native trees look incredible, require less maintenance, sustain local pollinators, provide food and shelter to wildlife, and avoid the proliferation of invasive species. Good resources to use in researching native desert trees:

https://aznps.com
https://az.audubon.org/conservation/top-10-bird-plants-central-arizona
http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-az.htm
https://www.amwua.org/plants

¹ https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/parks/urban-forest
**PREBVE and PARK Improvements: Updates & Information**

By: Claire Miller, Preserve/Park Supervisor; Phoenix Parks and Recreation – Natural Resources Division/North

**Encampments:** Laws and ordinances promote a safe, healthy community environment for all. If you are aware of an encampment, campfire, or other homelessness activity, please call this number for both Crime Stop and PHX C.A.R.E.S.: 602-262-6251.

PHXCares helps those experiencing homeless to find long term solutions: [https://www.phoenix.gov/phxcares](https://www.phoenix.gov/phxcares)

**Trail 25:** Issues are not yet resolved, but we continue to work with the neighborhood groups to identify what the appropriate trail corridor should be, as well as potential connections into Lookout Mountain that may not be reflected on the current designated trails map.

**South Mountain:** Implementation of the South Mountain Trails Master Plan continues with exciting new trails opening over the next year!

- **Ma-Ha-Tuk Trail:** 9+ new miles are complete! Awaiting archaeological clearance for new trail segments and connections, identified on the south side of the mountain, prior to beginning new trail construction.
- **Silent Sunday Survey Part #2:** Provide feedback about non-motorized activities in South Mountain Park by completing this survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P73ZLMR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P73ZLMR)
- **Summit Road Special Event Closures:** March 28 - Ramadas 1-9, Kiwanis Trailhead and equestrian areas from 5AM-6PM, road and lookouts will be open to hikers, bikers and vehicles; April 4 - at 1-mile gate from 5-10 AM, no access to Summit Road for hikers, bikers and vehicles; May 15 (tentative closure) - at 1-mile gate, at noon; July 4 - at entry gate at 3 PM; Aug. 2 - at entry gate from 5 - 10 AM; Oct. 18 - at entry gate from 5 - 10 AM
- **San Juan Road Access:** Open to motor vehicle traffic on the first full weekend of every month only, providing access to the Alta, Bajada and National trails. On Silent Sundays, Road opens at 10 AM, after Silent Sunday event has concluded.
- **March 2020 thru summer 2020:** Improvements include resurfacing and stabilization of roadway edges; part of the 5-year infrastructure improvement plan for South Mountain Park, which began in 2017.

**Piestewa:** Renovation Improvements continue at Piestewa – the work is moving into the north segments of the park. The area remains open, but certain areas within the park may be closed or activity shifted to accommodate construction activity, while maintaining public access.

- **Piestewa Peak Trailhead Project:** Grand opening celebrated in October 2019. New and upgraded amenities in Brittlebush and Mesquite trailhead areas; include reconfigured parking, area adds 22 parking spaces, new 104-foot vehicle-pedestrian bridge, restrooms, ramadas, ranger station and 60-foot-tall entry monument.
- **Mojave Trailhead Renovation** is underway now through 2020. Expect parking and traffic restrictions. Cold drinking water and electricity may not be available during this project.

**North Mountain and Shaw Butte**

North Mountain at 2,104 feet and Shaw Butte at 2,149 feet, offer a wide array of trail options for hikers of all abilities and offer two of the best summit climbs in Phoenix. The North Mountain Visitor Center provides hikers and nature lovers with detailed information on Sonoran wildlife, trails, and regional history.

- **Moon Valley Challenge Hike:** Waiting List Registration is open. Saturday, March 28, 7 – 10 AM: 10.6 mile hike or 8.3 mile hike through North Mountain Park. Activity No.: 33604

**Phoenix Sonoran Desert Preserve**

The Sonoran Preserve, in North Phoenix, comprises more than 9,600 acres. Three trailhead locations - Desert Vista, Desert Hills and Apache Wash - offer 36 miles of trails.

**Camelback Mountain:** Parking is not permitted along most roadways near the trailheads. Vehicles parked in violation of posted signs will be towed at owner’s expense. Tickets will be issued to those idling their vehicle along roadways near the trailheads.

Stay hydrated when enjoying outdoor activities. Know these hiking safety guidelines before visiting a trailhead: [Phoenix.gov/Parks/Trails](https://www.phoenix.gov/Parks/Trails)

**PMPC’s Legacy: The Next 500 Years**

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary is a good time to reflect on all PMPC has achieved, and to share our vision of what we would like to see PMPC achieve in the next 50 years, 100 years, and even 500 years.

Many things will change in Phoenix in the coming decades. Looking back is a good way to reflect on the future. About 1450 AD, Pueblo Grande was abandoned due to drought. In 1920, just 100 years ago, the population in Phoenix was 29,053. We are now well over 1.6 million.

Our continued vigilance is necessary today to protect and preserve what we love. Imagine how precious and life sustaining healthy and vibrant mountains and preserves will be to the Phoenicians living here in 2520.

Please share your vision and hope for the future with PMPC, as we continue to develop a strong vision and focus for the future of the Phoenix Preserves.
Thank you for your 2020 PMPC Membership!

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City, ST, Zip: _________________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________

☐ Please contact me with opportunities to become more involved with PMPC:
   (Optional) Contact Phone: ____________________________

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: Check your membership level:

☐ Family/Individual $35

☐ Organization $45

MEMBERSHIP ($35 or $45): $________

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

☐ Slope Protector $ 50 - $100

☐ Cliff Protector $100 - $500

☐ Peak Protector $500 +

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT: $________

TOTAL: $________

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc. (PMPC, Inc.)

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.
12950 N. 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85022

Thank you for supporting PMPC!