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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Willem Van Kempen

This is the last *Canyon Chatter* of the year. In fact this probably will be the last regularly printed Chatter distributed by U.S. Mail. Those of you who have given us your email address have been receiving news and alerts by email. All of our communications in the future will be through the web-mail format. If you have not given us your email address, you will no longer receive our news in the mail - unless you tell us that you do not have access to email. In that case, we will make every effort to print and mail our newsletters and alerts to you. We currently plan to email newsletters about once a month, and alerts whenever needed. Our website is beautiful and loaded with information so why not give us your email address or update an old one so we can keep you posted.

I hope that you like our email blasts in their new format and I urge you to read them carefully, especially with regard to the proposed Rosemont mine. I hope you will take personal action.

Next year we will celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Doug Moore is planing the celebration for April 14, 2012 in the

Canyon (see page 7). We will send you more details well ahead of time so you can celebrate with us.

Our annual special fund request for a Site Plan for the Amphitheater created some questions in the minds of our members. I would like to answer their concerns which you might share. The amphitheater area has not received the attention it has deserved for a very long time, but with a new handicapped accessible bridge and a graded and paved parking area, it is calling for the next step. The Forest Service and the Friends would like to increase use of the actual amphitheater site. In order to do that, we need to greatly improve the site. Logically our concern is to maintain the natural character of the place so it all must be done with great care and respect.

Therefore we have requested your help to cover the cost of a site plan to be developed by our Special Projects committee in cooperation with professional engineers. There will be some disturbance during construction but eventually when the job is done, nature will be about the same as it is now. As far as bird watching is concerned, you will be able to visit the area and see the same birds as you do now. Programs and meetings at the Amphitheater should not greatly disturb our birds as they will be fairly short and infrequent.

Recently we had two sold-out performances of "Broadway ShowStoppers 2" at the Community Center for Performing Arts (CPAC). Everyone is talking about this event as it does not happen too many times that the Center is filled to the last row. If you missed it, make sure to mark your calendar for next year.

On November 12 we were present at the annual Pecan Festival in Sahuarita. Our booth was right next to that of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas and we were pleasantly surprised when we were joined by the National Park Service to hand out Anza Trail maps. Some-things come naturally indeed.

You will also see us again at the weekly Farmers Market on Wednesdays at the Green Valley Village mall.

(continued on page 2)

**Officers of the Board of Directors**

President – Willem Van Kempen - 762-9862 - wvkaz@msn.com  
 Vice President – Tom Purdon - 648-7080 - tfpurdon@cox.net  
 Secretary - Eileen Buckel - 399-1241 - eileenrf@yahoo.com  
 Treasurer - Carol Lambert - 399-2640 - clambert26@cox.net

**Board of Directors Members**

Louise Gibbeson 648-1068 - gibbesonl@cox.net  
 George Cottay - 309-721-6150 - gcottay@gmail.com  
 Dita-Erika Hagen - 248-2681 - dhagen5@cox.net  
 Tamara Kahrimanis - 625-2648 - rtkyrie@hotmail.com  
 Wally Lamb - 625-1256 - blacksheep89@msn.com  
 Jerry Popham - 445-6485 - dgppopham@cox.net  
 Rozanne Roman - 625-1269 - rgr2wlf@hotmail.com  
 Judith Thoreson - 625-7216 - rthor@rconnect.com

**Director of Education**

Doug Moore - 682-0459 - maderaedu@q.com

**Board of Directors Responsibilities.**

If you have a question you may contact the Board Member or write to: [info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org](mailto:info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org).

Eileen Buckel - Event Calendar, Chamber Coordination.  
 Louise Gibbeson - Vice President -Operations, Newspaper Column, Publicity, Special Events.  
 George Cottay - Web Master, Email Newsletter & Alerts Publisher.  
 Dita Hagen - Archives, Comment Cards, Historian, Preservation, Nomination of New Board Members.  
 Tamara Kahrimanis - Youth and Adult Education.  
 Wally Lamb - Visitor Information Station.  
 Carol Lambert - Vice President - Marketing, Memorials, Grant Writing, Special Projects.  
 Jerry Popham - Bat Research, Mailing.  
 Tom Purdon - Annual Audit, Speakers' Bureau, Environmental Organization Liaison.  
 Rozanne Roman - Accessible Trails, Annual Meeting, Miles and Hours Compilation, Annual Meeting.  
 Judy Thoreson - Fundraising, Planned Giving.  
 Willem Van Kempen - Forest Service Liaison, Volunteer Coordination and Recognition, Volunteer of the Year.

**Other Functions performed by non-board members.**

Sondra Dexter - 399-2711 - Scholarships. - jsdsdd@aol.com  
 Mike Staples - 648-1532 - Preservation & Clean-up.  
 Ellen West - 648-3743 - Membership - bandingaz@aol.com  
 George West - 648-3743 - Membership, Editor, Email Newsletter. - kbaybird@aol.com

**MEMBER ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**

Friends member Jen Tobias started a nursing-specific scholarship in her mother's name through the Pima Community College Foundation this summer. Jen is finishing her nursing program this winter and wants to leave a legacy for her mother who passed away after a long bout with cancer. Support would be appreciated and can be sent to Pima Community College Foundation, Kathleen Tobias Memorial Nursing Scholarship, 4905 C East Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85709-1320. Thank You!

**(President's Message continued from page 1)**

Our adult education lecture series started-off with a Geology talk by Richard Conway and it was a resounding success; once again CPAC was packed. People enjoyed this lecture where geologic history became a visual display that was easy for all to understand. Please make a note of this series and join us at the next three talks. The next one will be December 6!

We are waiting for the final go ahead on the repaving of the White House and Proctor accessible trails. We are looking forward to seeing these trails once again be accessible to all.

The Forest Service is diligently working on the renewal of our five-year volunteer agreement. While speaking of volunteers, nothing could be done without your help. Thank you all for having volunteered in whatever capacity and we are looking forward to seeing more of you again next year.

Our annual meeting will be on Saturday morning, January 14, 2012. Please bring your friends and neighbors so they can become our next new members.

It is also time to renew your membership; please consider stepping up to the next level.

We wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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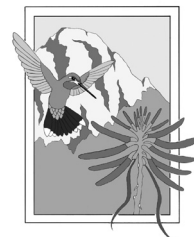
**SEEKING SAFETY IN THE CLOUDS**

By Carol Lambert

Computing "in the clouds" is a major transformation taking place in the electronic world and the Friends are taking advantage of the benefits it offers -- better protection from hackers, more power, better efficiency, and less cost. "Cloud computing" simply means that we are out-sourcing data storage and software operations.

From a financial standpoint, it will allow us to pay bills in QuickBooks and have the files transferred electronically to our bank, which is more efficient than how we were doing it. We have also transferred our membership and donation records to QuickBooks, which means we no longer make double or triple entries and we can generate thank you letters and receipts faster. Cloud computing also allows multiple volunteers to access our information on line, from any computer, with their own userid and password.

The Friends of Madera Canyon has finally entered the 21st century!



## ANNUAL REPORT 2011 FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON

### Highlights

Your board feels that 2011 has been one of the most productive years in this organization's history. This is the 23rd year of Friends sponsored student nature walks. The Canyon escaped a season wrought with wild fires -- thanks in part to the Forest Service's thinning project in the canyon. The Board re-organized itself and updated marketing and financial practices by subscribing to Cloud-based internet hosting. We are proceeding with a new direction for electronic alerts and newsletters. And this summer the Canyon hosted seven species of morning glories, 11 species of hummingbirds, and a Fan-tailed Warbler that strayed in from Mexico.

### Volunteers

During the first nine months, Friends volunteers have traveled 20,720 miles and spent 5,352 hours supporting Madera Canyon projects! Thank you! Thank you! What else could be more valuable to your own state of mind -- and to the future of Madera Canyon for your children and grandchildren?

Long-time volunteers Jan and Carl Vail were named Bud Gode Volunteers of the Year; for the last 15 years, the Vails have volunteered to help out with every project imaginable. Watch our website Events Calendar and email newsletter for details on the 2012 spring Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and enjoy La Posada's famous custom-made omelets.

This past year, the Friends also singled out several volunteers who have made a real difference in this organization: Former board member Lew Denny was honored with a plaque in the canyon for his leadership in helping to bring the Friends into existence. Tamara Kahrmanis was given a special service award for her work in arranging Music in the Canyon and our popular *Broadway Show Stoppers* music events. And Carolyn Fowler was appointed to Emeritus Membership on the Board for all her work.

### Youth Education

2011 was a busy year for 40 Canyon docents and Education Director Doug Moore, who hosted over 300 4th grade students on Canyon nature walks. A new relationship has been formed with the Sahuarita School Superintendent and the Friends TNEP (Traveling Nature Education Program) has been re-introduced into Sahuarita and DeAnza Trail 4th grade classrooms. Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a docent? Contact Doug Moore at [maderaedu@q.com](mailto:maderaedu@q.com) or 520-682-0459.

### Adult Education

Based on your responses to our member survey, we have expanded adult education programs this year. Survey partici-

pants requested topics of local interest in nature, geology, history, and culture. Held at the Community Performing Arts Center (CPAC), most of these programs also include a field trip. Check the Friends website ([friendsofmaderacanyon.org](http://friendsofmaderacanyon.org)) for more details and to purchase season tickets. (Individual tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling 399-1750.) 2012 programs include the *Wildflowers of Madera Canyon* on February 23 by our Education Director, Doug Moore, and the *Hummingbird Monitoring Network* on April 3, by Dr. Susan Wethington. All programs at held at CPAC.

Our successful 2nd Saturday nature walks have been popular with members and the community; this is an excellent opportunity for members to get outdoors in the canyon, meet others in the community, and help talk up friends membership! The annual Bud Gode Picnic and Bug Night was held in August followed by a Nature/Photography program in September. The Madera Canyon Geology brochure and timeline has been updated, and we are making important updates to a new "25th Anniversary edition" of the *History of Madera Canyon* book.

### Scholarship

A generous grant from GGVCF (Greater Green Valley Community Foundation) helped match members' donations to our Bud and Mary Gode Friends of Madera Canyon Scholarship fund and we were able to set aside a total of \$100,000 in this restricted fund. Our hope is that we never have to invade the principal and use only the earnings to award our annual scholarships. While we are thankful for the fiscal health of this program, it is concerning that overall the response to this program from the academic community has been disappointing

### Outreach

Members told us in the survey that they wanted more information on the proposed Rosemont mine, so we have developed a close association with SSSR (Save the Scenic Santa Ritas) and pledge to keep you informed of the latest developments through the email alerts you have been receiving. Along with the Forest Service, we hosted the 3rd annual Madera Canyon International Migratory Bird Day in the Canyon; eight other non-profits participated and help make this event a big success. Volunteers help us staff our booth at the Wednesday Green Valley Village Farmers Market, where we hope to increase our profile within the community and find new members. We write a monthly column for the Green Valley News and Sun newspaper!

A number of outreach programs were conducted during the year by Doug Moore and various Board members, including a Quail Creek nature series and PEO group. Would your social club or civic group be interested in having a speaker present information on Madera Canyon? Contact Vice President Tom Purdon at: [tfpurdon@cox.net](mailto:tfpurdon@cox.net).

## Communications

After over 20 years of publication, the quarterly *Canyon Chatter* printed its last edition in December 2011. News of importance to the membership is coming out more frequently than a printed and mailed newsletter can be published. Modern society demands that we keep up with the rapid pace of communications and we are doing so with emailed newsletters and alerts. We strongly suggest that every member have the ability to receive email, either directly or via the internet. If you cannot, please let us know and we will send you copies of the electronic version by U.S. Mail. Please give us your email address now simply by writing a message to [info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org](mailto:info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org). We would also like to know what you think of the format and the contents. Send your feedback to the Friends email address (above) so the Communications Committee can incorporate your suggestions.

Next year we anticipate updating the Friends website in an effort to streamline the information and make it easier to navigate. Many of the stories mentioned in our new email newsletter and news items formerly included in the Chacter will be covered in much greater detail on the website.

## Marketing

A comprehensive marketing plan was developed for the Friends and new priorities included designing a new membership brochure and a direct mail campaign to reach out to prospective members. The new brochure was designed by our graphic design firm, Westword Vision, located in Patagonia, and includes eight panels of larger than life color photos, and two inserts, one on Volunteer Opportunities and one on Events.

The Friends received a grant from Country Fair White Elephant allowing us to replace old brochure boxes in the canyon that had begun to leak during the monsoon season. The Friends distribute about 50,000 brochures each year to Canyon visitors, including an Introduction to Madera Canyon, Madera Canyon Hiking Trails, and a Madera Canyon Bird Check List.

## Special Events

Your Board is working on a special event to celebrate the Friends 25th anniversary on April 14, 2012 in the canyon; check the website periodically for more details. If you would like to help organize this special celebration, email us at [info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org](mailto:info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org).

## Membership

Special thanks to the 130 members who took the time last spring to complete a short membership survey. This information provided the Board with direction for future activities -- especially adult education and how we communicate with you. Through the month of October, we had

50 new members join our ranks! Watch the website events calendar for more details about the Prospective and New Member Social held each spring.

## Mark your 2012 calendar on January 14 for the Friends' Annual meeting.

## Special Projects

Last year the Friends helped fund a new bridge over Madera Creek below the Amphitheater parking area that was destroyed by monsoon floods. The path leads to the old amphitheater seating area that has been degraded and unused for many years. The 2012 special project of the Friends is to completely redesign and construct the assembly area to include more seating, a stage, and other amenities to allow us to have nature programs, music programs, and other events in this more protected and scenic spot. The first step is to formulate a site and construction plan. The annual appeal for 2011 mailed in October addressed this goal and we hope to receive enough income to fund a site plan.

Thanks to a community grant from Freeport McMoran, the Proctor/Whitehouse accessible trail loop will be re-surfaced in spring 2012, which should extend the life of these trails by ten years.

If you have been up in the Canyon recently, you may have noticed the construction going on at the Santa Rita Lodge. The new building they are constructing will house living quarters, the expanded gift shop, and some food options. The Lodge has also invited the Friends to have a presence. The Special Projects Committee is developing a list of visitor information we would like to display including birds in the canyon, events, trails, USFS planned activities, etc. We would also like to provide information about joining our organization. Future information options may include the use of video and an interactive computer website.

## Operations

Are you interested in serving on the Board? You would be joining a professional group of members who oversee the day-to-day operations of this organization. A job description will be provided and you will mentor with someone who has held the position before. Contact Willem Van Kempen at [wvkaz@msn.com](mailto:wvkaz@msn.com) or 520-265-2008.

## Fund Raising

This past spring the Friends organized another successful *Music in the Canyon* series. As requested in the member survey, we held the concert one hour earlier than in previous years. (Will wine and cheese be next?) After last year's sell-out performances of the *Broadway Show Stoppers*, this year's program was designed as a sequel and two sold-out performances were held at CPAC. Proceeds

from both these fund raising events support the Friends education and conservation programs.

**Finance Committee**

A new Finance Committee was formed to oversee the Friends investments and a decision was made to remove some of our funds from low interest bearing CDs into a pooled investment fund with the GGVCF, which is overseen by Wells Fargo.

**Unaudited Financial Statement**

Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2011 - Year To Date

**ASSETS**

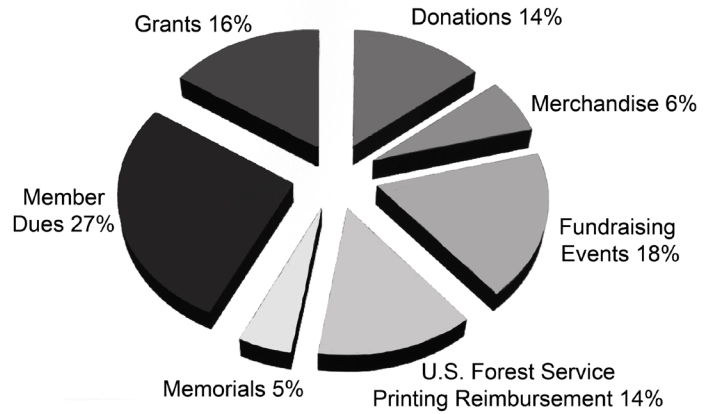
Current Assets	\$158,799
Checking	85,103
Money Market	37,431
CD	36,265

Restricted Fund

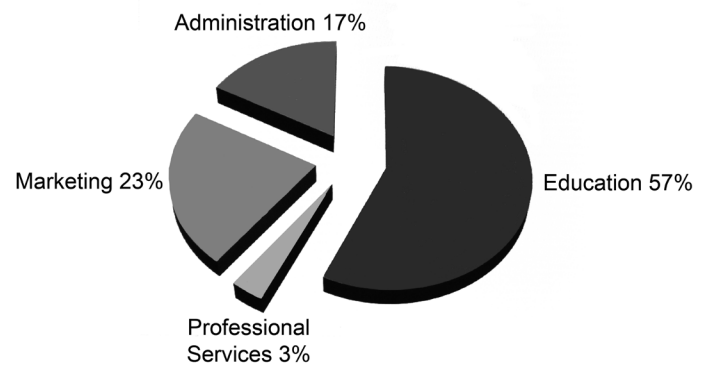
Gode Scholarship	\$100,000
Fixed Assets	\$13,157
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$271,956</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Liabilities	\$4,000
Equity	\$267,956
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$271,956</b>



INCOME: Sources of Funds in 2011



EXPENDITURES: Allocation of Funds in 2011

**AMPHITHEATER ENGINEERING SITE PLAN**

By Jerry Popham

2012 is nearing and the Friends Board of Directors set the completion of the amphitheater engineering site plan as the organization’s top priority effort for next year. The amphitheater, located in the center of Madera Canyon below and across Madera Creek from the Amphitheater parking area, is a rustic presentation and meeting facility at the beginning of the canyon’s Nature Trail. The area has been the focus for future improvement for the past few years. Two years ago the Friends constructed a new bridge across the creek to the amphitheater after a summer monsoon storm damaged the old bridge. This year, we worked with the U.S. Forest Service to upgrade and pave the old dirt parking area that leads to the new bridge and amphitheater.

Now our focus is on expanding and improving the amphitheater itself, while maintaining the beautiful natural setting where it sits next to the canyon’s creek. Back at the end of spring 2011, the Board reviewed options for expanding the existing amphitheater seating and selected a plan that

will double the number of seats and add a stage at the north end of the area. To make the amphitheater expansion plan a reality, we now need to create an engineering site plan (construction blueprint) that defines what is to be done so the project can be put out for bid to select a construction firm to complete the project. The engineering site plan will also be a key document that we will use to seek funding (grants, corporate or other organizations’ donations) to pay for the major construction effort. In order to get the engineering site plan completed, each member of the Friends of Madera Canyon has received a letter seeking donations to hire an engineering firm to complete the site plan.

Once the canyon’s amphitheater upgrade is completed, the new presentation area will be used for nature presentations, special events like “Music in the Canyon,” and other educational activities for everyone to enjoy in the heart of beautiful Madera Canyon.



## FALL 2011 NATURE WALKS

By Doug Moore

The Friends of Madera Canyon Education Program and docent volunteers conducted Nature Walks this fall for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and a local Cub Scout troop, marking the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of this successful program introducing children to the nature of Madera Canyon, part of their public land natural heritage!

Our top-notch docents led three Thursday school walks in November for Sopori School, Great Expectations Academy, and Continental Schools. Many thanks to teachers Will Ahrens, Sandra Hunt, and Lourdes Soto for their help in scheduling and preparing students for the field trips! The scout troop was in the canyon on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>. All the kids and attending adults had a chance to explore and learn about the canyon around the Proctor Accessible Nature Loop. In recent years, a number of parents accompanying their children to the canyon were Friends nature walk participants themselves years ago. We are hoping to have more nature walk alumni participating with their kids next year!

After a good monsoon season, the canyon dried out quickly from the high fall temperatures. Nonetheless, there were many interesting things to see, hear, and touch. Trail regulars like white-tailed deer, rock squirrels, Mexican jays, tree lizards, earthstar fungi, and a variety of fall butterflies were around. It was a banner year for grasshoppers and other "cool bugs." As the leaders squirmed their groups around the loop, docents Judy Thoreson and Merle Buesing told the kids about pioneer and mining days at the White House ruin. Docent DiAnn Bresina talked about the Native American presence in the canyon and provided home-made mesquite-flour cookies for everyone at the matate station.

Many thanks to all participating docent volunteers for the on-going commitment to the Nature Walks Program and dedication to providing a unique nature experience for our local students in Madera Canyon! You are making an impact on how our local youth view nature and regard their natural heritage!

The Friends Education Program welcomes **enthusiastic and committed** nature lovers to become natural history docents to help students and adults learn about the canyon. Prospective docents must be Friends members and be willing to volunteer time on Thursday mornings in October and November and February and April (including training sessions), as well as for Friends special events during the year. Curiosity for and the ongoing study of the natural history of Madera Canyon and the Sky Islands of SE Arizona are required! Interested persons should contact Doug Moore at [maderaedu@q.com](mailto:maderaedu@q.com) or (520) 682-0459.



Visit our Web Site - [www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org](http://www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org)

## ANNUAL BUD GODE PICNIC AND BUG NIGHT

By Doug Moore

An enthusiastic group of members and canyon visitors gathered for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual event, held at the White House Picnic Area for the first time. Ten people attended the "bring your own" picnic supper and about 20 watched the "bugging with black light." A late visit from a group of University of Arizona students also "bugging" up at Bog Spring Campground brought the night's total participants to about 30!

The event "officially" started in 2005 in remembrance of Friends nature guru, Bud Gode, and his love for investigating the monsoon night insects in the canyon by attracting them with ultra-violet light. Originally held at the Chuparosa Inn B&B, Bug Night has been held at Kent Spring Center, Proctor, and this year at White House; different species of insects are found in different locations and elevations, so it is interesting to hold the event at different places in the canyon to see what critters show up for the party!

After an early threat of thunderstorms, the evening melted into perfect picnic/bugging weather. Following the picnic, the group took a short stroll along the White House Loop, enjoying towering sunset clouds and rushing creek, while marveling the lush monsoon vegetation of beautiful flowers and interesting insects, particularly caterpillars. The hikers returned to the parking area at twilight to settle in and watch a variety of beetles, moths, ant lions, and other insects come in to the black light. Evening highlights "on the sheet" included a spectacular green and gold-striped Glorious Leaf-chafer Scarab Beetle, White-lined Sphinx Moth, Great Poplar Sphinx Moth, Six-spotted Sphinx Moth, Edward's Glassy-wing Moth, and several huge, dragonfly-like adult ant lions. A later walk around the parking area and restrooms revealed katydids, preying mantis, and quite a few different spider species in their characteristic webs.

Thank you to everyone for the enthusiastic participation and making the evening not only a successful Friends activity, but a very enjoyable community event!

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### CANYON GEOLOGY WALK

By Doug Moore

On the first wintery morning of the season, 10 participants joined Richard Conway for an insightful field trip on the formation and geology of the Santa Rita Mountains and Madera Canyon and a hands-on exploration of canyon rocks. The field trip was an extension of Richard's sold-out geology presentation at the Community Performing Arts Center.

Despite hunched shoulders and hands crammed in coat pockets against a brisk wind, the group huddled in rapt attention to Richard's explanation of the mountain ranges and landscape features visible in the magnificent, panoramic

Proctor view. He also did a quick overview of the Proctor geologic time line before heading down the trail.

As often happens along Proctor, the wind and temperature moderated to more comfortable levels as the group scrutinized the many kinds of rocks along the trail. Richard distinguished between a number of different types of igneous rocks, discussing the various textures and crystal sizes. He pointed out obvious differences between different specimens of granite and welded tuff rhyolite derived from the Santa Rita crest and explained the origin and differences between breccia and tuff. He also identified some rock-making minerals such as iron, quartz, and epidote. A few boulders were of questionable origin. Most of the rocks were obviously derived from the surrounding mountains and deposited by natural processes, but others, like a lone hunk of gray limestone at the first corner, were not from the canyon and must have been brought in by human activity. Trail rock highlights were several pieces of igneous porphyry with feldspar phenocrysts and a fascinating explanation of the many visible components making up the grandodioritic granite bedrock of the creek bed and canyon bottom above Proctor Road.

The group finished the morning at Amphitheater, walking about a quarter mile up the snowy Four Seasons Trail to see a prominent quartz outcrop and precariously perched quartz boulder that overlooks the canyon. It was a warm, sunny end to a good walk! Many thanks to Richard for a fun and fascinating trip; thanks to all the participants for their hardiness and good humor!

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### **PARTICIPANTS ENJOY GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP**

By Sally Havens and Kayri Mealy

For years, we sisters have been amateur geologists and avid rock-hounders so we were the first two people on the list when Richard Conway agreed to host a Friends geology field trip. Ten of us met at the Proctor parking lot on November 5 at 9 AM. The lot provides a remarkable 360 degree view of the geological history of our area. It also has a 4 1/2 billion year timeline painted on the sidewalk. You have to look twice to notice the humbling tiny line indicating Earth's brief period of human habitation.

Professor Conway immediately gained our utmost confidence in his expertise when we showed him a piece of pyrite with a mysterious, amorphous, crystalline substance perched on top of the pyrite foundation. It was a rock that the legendary Green Valley mountaineer, Freddie Carter, had picked up in a slag pile. Without blinking, Mr. Conway authoritatively declared, "That's glue."

As we viewed our surrounding expanse and wandered up the Proctor trail, Richard talked to us about the materials in the area, the structure of those materials, and the pro-

cesses over millions of years that have led to the creation of Madera Canyon. What is most remarkable is that Professor Conway was able to speak in the language of laypersons. He made everything comprehensible. We were impressed by Richard's patience with our mostly amateur group. We were fortunate to have Doug Moore along to co-host the event and to add his invaluable insight.

The walking pace was easy and every question was honored. It wasn't necessary to have had a background in science to comprehend Richard's information. Our curiosity and our eyes were the only necessary tools. We hope this educational opportunity will be repeated many times for all age groups. It will enrich understanding of the wonderful Sky Island in our backyard. We, also, hope there will be other geology field trips with Richard and Doug that cover different canyon locations. It was fun to handle many rocks and learn names such as epidote, hematite, quartz, pyrite, diorite, rhyolite, and feldspar. It was \$5 well spent!

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### **FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

By Doug Moore

2012 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Madera Canyon. A celebration of this momentous occasion will be held in Madera Canyon on Saturday, April 14. The Friends has asked the U.S. Forest Service to waive parking fees for the day, creating a "free day" for everyone.

A variety of activities is being scheduled with the Proctor Education Ramada serving as the central hub. Walks are planned for canyon trails, some nature/birding walks, and also history/culture, botany, and some destination hikes. There will also be hourly, guided nature hikes from the Proctor Ramada around the Proctor Nature Loop.

The Friends information/merchandise table will be located at Proctor along with a number of children's activities. A recognition ceremony commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being discussed. Longtime member and prominent local artist Georgia Doubler is planning a kid's nature art table and former Board member Ellen West is designing a nature treasure hunt. There will be a table of natural history specimens on display and Robert Villa of the Tucson Herpetological Society has agreed to display and talk about his wonderful native reptiles again.

Georgia Doubler is also organizing a "canyon art out," recruiting artists to set up and work out in the canyon recreation area where visitors can observe the process. Friends board member Louise Gibbeson is organizing food and entertainment at the White House Picnic Ramada and is working with Outlaw BBQ from Amado to bring up their colorful "chuckwagon" to provide tasty vitals and a Music in the Canyon group to provide background tunes.

Friends photographers Laurens Halsey, George West, George Cottay, and John Strandquist are organizing a Madera Canyon Photo Contest. Watch for contest details on the Friends website as the event gets organized.

Mid-April is usually a beautiful time in the canyon and there will be outdoor celebration activities for just about any interest. Please pencil-in the anniversary celebration on your social calendar for April 14, 2012, plan to attend, and tell all your friends and neighbors! Volunteer opportunities for Friends members to assist with the celebration will be forthcoming on the website and future e-mail blasts.

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BOARD: LOUISE GIBBESON

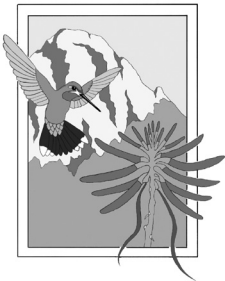
By Carol Lambert

If you periodically received email alerts from the Friends, then you probably recognize the name Louise Gibbeson, since they came from her computer. And it probably won't surprise you that Louise is one of our most dedicated and organized Board members. As Vice President of Operations, Louise oversees education (both youth and adult), events, accessible trails, Visitor Information Station, and others.

Louise's background in event planning for the Community Performing Arts Center (CPAC), volunteering for the Tubac Presidio, and as a small business owner (Travel Agency) all prepared her for taking a leadership position with virtually every organization she joins. You won't find anyone on the Friends' Board with a stronger "Can Do" attitude. *Music in the Canyon* was her idea five years ago and has since grown to be one of our most successful fundraising events.

Like many of us who gravitate towards the outdoors because of our experience as kids, Louise grew up in a "nature family" with property on the Columbia River in Washington state. She was raised by hunter and fisher parents and enjoyed camping and spending time on the family's small fishing vessel. So when she moved to Green Valley ten years ago, Louise naturally gravitated towards Madera Canyon.

Asked what she feels is the Friends' biggest challenge, Louise replied that it is bringing our small, non-profit organization into the 21st century. Even as the Friends becomes more electronic (see the article on the "Clouds" on page 2), you can bet that Louise will be our strongest advocate of staying in touch personally with members.



**FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON**  
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