

Catalina Foothills Association

www.catalinafoothillsassociation.org

P.O. Box 64546 • Tucson, Arizona 85728-4546

Devoted to the preservation of the unique residential character of the Catalina Foothills

Spring 2009

A Special Farewell to Jim Snedden

We'd like to wish a special farewell to Jim Snedden whose exodus from the board will be greatly missed. He was a voice to be heard on the preservation of the Foothills communities. He kept a pulse on legislation, environmental and residential changes that could influence our life-styles.

Jim, an author himself, was often the author and editor to our newsletter which informed our membership on things that mattered to the Catalina's. He updated and kept our website in tune. Jim was the coordinator of the forums which brought residents in our area together with their political leaders. He always brought to light issues that could dramatically change the essence of the Catalina's and the reason for preservation. Jim never hesitated to give a stern reminder why we all were attracted to move into the Foothills.

Thanks Jim, for all you have contributed and done to preserve the Foothills essence. We appreciate all you have done.

A Letter To Our Residents

Dear Neighbor,

We again respectfully request your support of the Catalina Foothills Association (CFA) by remitting your annual dues for 2009. In our initial letter sent in January, we offered a brief overview of the CFA's history and why it is still relevant today.

Although the CFA does not mandate dues or membership, we bear the responsibility of acting on your behalf in preserving the quality of life in the Foothills that most of you expect, even if you do not elect to belong to the Association. Among other things, this involves the enforcement of covenants and restrictions where they remain in force, publishing newsletters to keep residents informed, and assuming responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of the development agreements for three of the business corners at Skyline and Campbell.

We understand that you have other important financial obligations to consider. However, please keep in mind that The Board represents your interests without benefit of compensation, and takes great care to ensure that the Association's assets and expenses are prudently managed.

We are blessed with a very scenic area with space between homes, outstanding schools, quiet streets, and native vegetation, all of which we hope to preserve and pass on to future home owners.

The CFA welcomes your input and participation as well as your annual dues. Thank you for your consideration and your continued support would be greatly appreciated. If you have already paid please pass the dues envelope onto someone new in your area.

David Hamra, President

What The CFA Does

Mission: Act on behalf of all the residents on matters which effect Catalina Foothills 1-9.

Deed Restrictions Areas 5-6; Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 with deed restrictions

Architectural Review- Areas 5-6, Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4

Covenant Reinstatement, Areas 1, 2, 3, 4

Building Height CFA - 18 feet vs County 34 feet

Lot Set Backs CFA - 30 Feet vs County 10 feet

Legislation Committee

County Planning, Transportation, Zoning

Annual Meeting and Forums

Newsletter - Website

Historical Areas - Joesler Homes

<i>In the News</i>	Pages
<i>Legislature</i>	2
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	2
<i>Pres. Message</i>	3
<i>Meet Your Board</i>	4/5/6
<i>Arch & Cov. Review</i>	6
<i>Crime</i>	6
<i>Water</i>	7
<i>Invasive Plants</i>	8
<i>Monsoon Tips</i>	8
<i>Old Pueblo</i>	9
<i>Repaint Project</i>	9/10
<i>Useful Resources</i>	10

Legislation

Bills of Interest to watch that are in legislation, but *not passed to date*, that could affect Home Owners

House Bills:

HB2184 – HOA's & Condos: Sunscreens: A Planned Community or condominium HOA cannot prohibit the installation or use of solar screens or shade structures intended to act as energy saving devices. However, an HOA can adopt reasonable rules regarding the placement of these items as long as the adopted rules do not prevent the installation or impair the functioning of the device, restrict its use or adversely affect the deficiency of the device. Requires that the court award reasonable attorney fees and costs to any party who substantially prevails in litigation against an HOA as it relates to these provisions.

HB2430- HOA's & Condos: Registration and Disclosure: Beginning January 1, 2010, Condo and Planned community Associations must submit specified information about the Association to the Secretary of State for posting on her official website.

HB 2514- HOA's: Ham Radio Structures: County and municipality zoning regulations must make reasonable provisions for the height and dimension of amateur radio station emergency service communications, antennae and related structures.

HB2518- HOA's & Condos: Rainwater Systems – An Association must allow installation and use of reasonably placed rainwater catchments or cistern systems intended as water saving device.

HB2542- HOA's: Energy Saving Devices: Associations may not prohibit the use of named energy saving devices, including awnings, ramadas, attic fans and clotheslines. The association may adopt reasonable rules regarding the placement and color of the devices as long as the rules do not adversely affect the efficiency of the device.

HB 2625 – HOA's : Voluntary Participation: An owner may opt out of mandatory membership in a planned Community by recording a document that states the owners intention to opt out. The recorded document is valid only for the named owner and doesn't survive the conveyance of the property to another owner.

Senate Bills:

SB1148: Deed Restrictions; For Sale Signs- The right of a property owner to display a "For Sale" sign on his property may not be infringed as long as the size of the sign conforms to industry standards.

SB1363: HOA's Declarant's Voting Rights: A declarant right to vote for the Board of Directors in a Planned Community is limited in certain cases where the Declarant is not the original Declarant, but obtained title to lots through foreclosure.

SB1432 Homestead Exemption: The amount of the Homestead Exemption is increased to \$750,000 from the current \$150,000.

Definitions:

PLANNED COMMUNITY:The common areas are owned by the Association.

CONDOS: The common areas are owned equally by lot owners.

PROPERTY OWNER ASSOCIATION: No common areas but have CC&Rs.

Annual Meeting Review

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 27th 2009 at St. Philip's in the Hills Church in the Murphey Gallery. At the meeting, President David Hamra explained to the attending membership the Mission of the CFA Board. A review of what the CFA Board involves themselves in on behalf of all residents on matters which affect the Catalina Estates 1 through 9. This includes enforcing of the CC&R's for areas 5&6 and 1 thru 4 with reinstated CC&R's, reviewing legislation, attending county planning, zoning and transportation meetings/issues; holding the annual meetings, and forums; sending out newsletters and creating a website; working to develop and preserve historical values, and enforcing agreements with three developments at Skyline & Campbell.

Also discussed were the differences in building criteria between the county and our CC&R's. The CC&R's have restrictions to preserve views for everyone and larger building setbacks requirements. All construction, both new and remodel, should go to the Architectural Review Committee prior to construction to limit extra expenses due to violations.

Other topics that were discussed were

Treasurer's report

Nominating Committee

Crime Statistics (*see article pg 6*)

Reports from Arch/ Covenant Committees (*pg 6*)

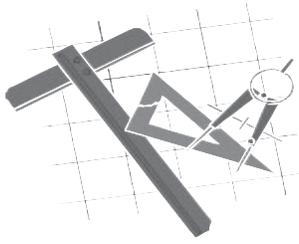
Street Sign Revitalization (*see article pg 9/10*)

Guest Speaker Rosey Koberlein from Long Realty gave a presentation on the current Real Estate Market. Pricing and 2009 market drivers in real estate were presented and issues to watch in the coming year.

We also said farewell to Susan Petrus from Area 5, Nancy Weeks Area 3 and Jim Snedden from Area 7. Thanking them for their dedication and service on the CFA Board.



"The good news is, homeowners are actually reading our association newsletter. The bad news is, they are starting to ask questions."



Plan on building or remodeling please contact your Area Representative or Architecture Committee

Changes in your initial plans *you must notify* your Architectural Committee.



All comments or questions please call 327-9693 or e-mail us at CFAnews@msn.com

Visit our website for past publications and other information on the Catalina Foothills

www.catalinafoothills.org



President's Message

Sometimes I'm asked what it's like to be the President of a group that either a) has no real power or responsibilities or b) is an anachronism swimming against the tide of progress. Yes, the CFA is a voluntary organization with the stated goals of representing the interests of property owners and attempting to preserve the "ambiance" of the foothills. Those goals are a bit fuzzy, but I can assure you there is plenty for the CFA to do on your behalf.

Sure, the pertinent issues have changed since the days of early development in the foothills. Most of the early board members' addresses were listed by rural route and box number. In 1964, grazing cattle that ate shrubs and flowers prompted the CFA to work with the Forest Service and become a "no fence" area so that property owners would not be required to fence against livestock. Another early concern was sewer flow directly into the Rillito River. At that time Catalina Foothills Estates owned its own water company (subsequently sold to Tucson Water in 1972) and one of the wells was recharged by the Rillito stream flow.

Other issues began early and continue to this day. As development has continued all around our area, increased traffic is always a concern. (In 1963, the widening of Campbell Avenue south of River Road and the Campbell Avenue bridge impacted the foothills.) Fire protection has been a frequent topic of discussion, recently revived by the City of Tucson's new fire station at First and River. (Also in 1963, the CFA chose not to pursue the creation of a fire district and instead decided to use the services of Rural Metro.) And of course, rezoning and lot splitting is always on our agenda even in these difficult economic times. (Rezoning has been a constant focus. During the annual membership meeting in 1963 - a busy year for the CFA - the zoning committee chairman reported that "constant vigilance will be necessary from now on".)

These challenges may take on a new face (we have recently dealt with offensive lighting and a 12-foot property wall) but our mission remains unchanged - to balance changing tastes and preferences with preservation of the life-style that makes the foothills so attractive. We always prefer to work cooperatively to resolve disputes or misunderstandings, but we are committed to monitoring and enforcing CC&R's and county regulations.

So, please contact us if you have questions or concerns, or if there is an issue with which we may be of assistance. The board of the CFA represents you and wants to work with you.

Dave Hamra



Meet Your CFA Board



Gary Bartick
Area: 1
CFA Board member since: December 2007
Committees: Legislation and Architectural Review

Important issue facing the Foothills that's important to me: I live in Area 1 and my biggest concern is all of the homeowners who live in areas where the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions have lapsed and have not signed on to the new CC&Rs. What will happen to the multi-acre properties after the current owners die? Will these properties be subdivided into one acre lots and be developed without any architectural oversight? Would you like a purple and red residence across the street from you? The only way to protect the rural flavor of the Foothills is to make sure ALL residents sign the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. A copy of these CC&Rs can be obtained from the Catalina Foothills Association.

Favorite Tucson-area restaurants: With out a doubt, my wife's and my favorite place to eat in Tucson is Vivace in St. Philip's Square. The food is always consistent and the seasoned wait staff treats their occupation as a profession. We find the prices are moderate and the portions are more than ample. We can't wait for Danny to open his new "pizza" restaurant in St. Phillip's. Another one of our favorites is Le Rendez-vous. One would believe they are eating in Paris. The ambiance and the food are a throwback to days gone by. Where else do you get tableside service?



June LeClair-Bucko
Occupation: Retired Telecommunications Instructor, Freelance Artist/ Graphic Designer
Area: 7
CFA Board member since: October 2005
Committees: Communications

Important issue facing the Foothills that's important to me: I perceive that the CFA will deal with many issues new and old. Their importance won't just be for me, but to all of us who were attracted to live in the foothills because of its unique qualities. As our residents and our local officials change through time, issues will arise that will affect or perhaps demand the community to change. I believe the CFA has an important role and opportunity to mediate the delicate balance of preservation and change, through education and communication with the support of its membership. The desert lifestyle in the foothills was not acquired by chance, but carefully developed, it is up to all of us to participate and support the CFA in mediating the issues.

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: I love walking the neighborhoods and washes. I'm always amazed by the colorful blooms on the various cacti, the scenery and the wildlife I encounter. So not to tell "big fish stories" I started to carry my camera to capture those unique moments.



Page Chancellor
Occupation: Lawyer
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: December 2007
Committees: Deed Restrictions and Planning & Zoning

Important issue facing the Foothills that's important to me: Neighborhood safety is the most important issue to me. As a mother of two small children, I want to do all that I can to make sure we live in a safe community. I think neighborhood watches are vital and that we look out for each other and keep our eyes open to anything or anyone that raises suspicion. We should all know our neighbors better. Take the time to get to know your neighbors. Not only will you make new friends, you will also be improving neighborhood awareness.

Favorite Tucson-area restaurants: Vivace, Le Rendez-vous, or RA depending on my tastebuds that night

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: I love to walk in our neighborhood, get to know my neighbors better, and work in my vegetable garden.



Lee Farmer **Treasurer**
Occupation: Retired Banker
Area: 6
CFA Board member since: June 2007
Committees: Planning, transportation, Zoning

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board: I agreed to serve to do my part in maintaining this unique foothills area.

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: when time permits I enjoy walking this wonderful area.



Fred Fiastro
Occupation: Physician
Area: 9
CFA Board member since: January 2009
Committees: Area Representative

Unique characteristic(s) of my neighborhood/district: The Catalina Foothills is a unique area of the Tucson Metro area that was largely developed at a time when preserving desert flora was a major priority. As time goes on, the areas served by the Catalina Foothills Association become more and more special compared with other area neighborhoods. To preserve what we have, many areas of our Association are governed by CC&R's and others are not. We can all maintain the unique environment we live in through education of our members of the guidelines that keep our neighborhoods beautiful and safe and working with commercial businesses that operate in the foothills as well as county officials.

The CFA plays a special role in addressing the global issues that impact all our individual HOA's and the overall quality of life in all areas. I urge everyone to support our CFA with your dues and interest



Dave Hamra **President**
Occupation: Financial Planner/ Investment Adviser
Area: 2
CFA Board member since: March 2004
Committees: Nomination

Unique characteristic(s) of my neighborhood/district: We are very lucky to live near the Hacienda del Sol wash, which runs from La Paloma all the way to River Road. It's like living next to a big park, and it's a great place to run and walk the dog. There is plenty of wildlife, and the Hacienda del Sol stables still give horseback rides through the wash. It's a true hidden gem.

Favorite Tucson-area restaurants: Our favorite restaurants are those that are locally owned and run. We prefer local places to chains because we feel we can get to know the owner/chefs and become more intimately familiar with the menu. And it helps boost the local economy.



Troy Hollar
Occupation: Entrepreneur, Media Producer
Area: 3
CFA Board member since: January 2009
Committees: Communications

Unique characteristics of my neighborhood/district: We love that our property borders the Hacienda del Sol wash, with its abundance of coyotes, javelina, bobcats, birds, and myriad flora.

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: organic gardening, cycling, and hiking in the Catalina's and Rincon's



Katherine Jacobson
Occupation: Political & Business Consultant, Freelance Writer
District: 6 Catalina Foothills Condominiums
CFA Board member since: 2009, also served on CFA Board for 6 years in the 1990s
Committee: Communications

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board: I believe every member of our community needs to use whatever his or her particular talents are to protect and enhance life in our neighborhoods. Participating on the Board of CFA allows me to keep track of zoning and building code changes that might impact our area, it allows me an opportunity to connect with fellow residents to work together to keep our desert environment in place and to plan educational and community meetings where other neighbors can learn and become involved.

Favorite Tucson-area restaurants: Pastiche on Campbell just south of Fort Lowell — because the food is always tasty, there is a lively mix of people from young college students to professionals to retirees to winter visitors, it serves dinner and appetizers until midnight so we can stop in after theatre, it has a wine and cheese shop for take-home goodies. And Pat Connor, the owner, supports lots of Tucson charities and artists.



Bob Klug
Occupation: Property and Asset Manager
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: March 2009
Committee: Area Representative

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board.

As a 20+ yrs resident of the Catalina Foothills, I thought it time to participate and be of assistance to the CFA Board. The work of the CFA Board is critical to the well being of our community. So much of our enjoyment of our community is due to the work of the CFA Board, be it streets & signage, adherence to deed restrictions, and representation of our community interests with Pima County and the City of Tucson.

Favorite Outdoor Activity in the Foothills.

My favorite activity is walking along the roadside and enjoying the natural vegetation and wildlife. Walking on a treadmill at the local gym does not allow for the breathtaking sights of an early sunrise, or a roadrunner skipping across the ground, or the colorful display of blooming cacti.



Jim Kranis
Occupation: Designer/Builder
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: December 2008
Committee: Architectural Review

Why I chose to serve on the CFA board: I was asked to join the board in December of 2008. It is a privilege to serve on the architectural review committee. My background in real estate development, architectural and construction hopefully will assist in the review of residential projects submitted for approval meeting the CC&R's requirements.

The most important issue for me regarding our CFA: The continuance of the CC&R's are to be maintained and preserved so that we have continuity among the residences built in an area that is unique and historic to the Tucson community.



Stephanie Maben
Occupation: Mother, designer and maker of hand-fabricated jewelry; Pima County Parks Commissioner for District 1
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: February 2006
Committee: Deed Restrictions and Nominations

Most important issue to me as a Foothills resident: to preserve as much of the natural desert and wildlife as possible because that is what makes our area truly unique.

Why I choose to serve on the CFA board: I have a lot of respect for our CC&R's. They are simple, non-dictatorial and give a lot of latitude to homeowners, but when enforced, they protect all the reasons we chose to live here: natural beauty, quiet and privacy. Good fences may make good neighbors, but well-enforced CC&R's make even better neighbors.



Chris Mathis
Occupation: Elder Law & Estate Planning Attorney
Area: 1
CFA Board member since: January 2006
Committee: Historic

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board:

To help preserve the vision of John and Helen Murphey and Josias Joesler of a community of haciendas in a natural desert environment.

Favorite Tucson area restaurants:

There are so many great options but three favorites are the Audubon Bar at the Arizona Inn, Rosa's and El Guero Canelo.



Matt Meister
Occupation: Mortgage Banker
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: December 2007
Committee : Deed Restrictions

Unique characteristic of my neighborhood area: younger families with kids

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: hiking, running, golf

Favorite Tucson-area restaurants: Flemings, Blanco, El Charro



Will Pew Vice-President
Occupation: fine woodworking, Specializing in heirloom-quality furniture. Owner of Studio Madera
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: February 2006
Committee: Vice President and Architectural Rev. Chair.

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board: Having called the Catalina Foothills home since 1972, he is deeply committed to helping preserve the character of our neighborhoods.

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: Like many foothills residents, I love the Sonoran Desert and enjoys spending much of my time outdoors; hiking, vegetable gardening, planting cactus (and maintaining a diverse xeriscape), and waging war against the evil packrats which constantly threaten my efforts!

Favorite Tucson-area restaurant: My favorite restaurant in Tucson is the Little Cafe Poca Cosa located on the Southwest corner of Stone and Alameda. Although it is only open for breakfast and lunch, nowhere else can you get such a fantastic meal for around ten bucks. The service is always exuberant and the music is cranked a decibel or two above the level some might like, but for my money you won't regret it. If you have never been try the Plato Poca Cosa (they pick three items off the menu) and see what you have been missing!



Chris Reynolds
Occupation: Retired
Area: 1
CFA Board member since: November 2008
Committee: Area Representative

Why I choose to serve on the CFA Board: I have lived in the foothills for 24 years and want to protect as much of the character and lifestyle as I had found so attractive in 1985.

Favorite outdoor activities in the Foothills: avid mountain bike and road cyclist using many of the roads and washes from the Rillito to Skyline.



John Swain
Occupation: Law Professor
Area: 5
CFA Board member since: May 2006
Committee: Area Representative

Important issue facing the Foothills that's important to me:

The importance of our covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) in helping to maintain our property values and the quality of our neighborhood cannot be overrated. The CC&Rs were a major reason why I chose to buy in the Catalina Foothills rather than in another, superficially attractive neighborhood that has deteriorated because of the lack of any sensible guidelines for use and development. The charm of our neighborhood is that it contains a nice blend of the old and the new. We are fortunate that the CC&Rs are flexible enough to accommodate change while preserving the Catalina Foothills' unique character.

Crime in the Foothills

The Foothills is not immune to crime. Last year the Foothills area had a bout of burglaries which is always unsettling. Many residents were made aware of the crime wave and took steps to prevent additional occurrences. Working with the Sheriff's Dept. they formed Neighborhood Watches or made sure they called in to 911 any unusual or suspicious activity.

Below is a chart on the three areas of crime that afflicts the foothills 1 through 9 most often - these crimes are auto theft, larcenies, and burglaries. Auto thefts often occur when cars are not locked, or keys are easily assessable to thieves. Larcenies from vehicles are usually due to articles of desire that are visible and assessable. Even if you garage your car you should make it a habit to lock it. Larcenies from properties can be deterred by motion activated lights at night or security cameras. Burglaries can be deterred by using home security tactics such as turning on your alarm system, being observant who is in your neighborhood, not letting newspapers pile up, have a neighbor looking in on your property while you are away.

To help prevent crime, implement a Neighborhood Watch. They help residents become acquainted with neighbors and build an awareness to deter crime. The Sheriff's Dept. also has a free service which will come to your home and evaluate its security.



	2006	2007	2008
Auto Thefts	54	12	11
<i>Attempted</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>
Larcenies	133	42	17
<i>Vehicles</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>19</i>
Burglaries	79	26	38
<i>Attempted</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>

Architectural Review Fall 2008 to Spring 2009 for Areas 5 & 6, and Areas 1-4 with re-enstated CC&R's

Violation	Reviewed/ Approved	Pending	Comp.	Denied
Additions	1			
Driveways	1	1	7	
Entryways	1	1		
Equip. Screening	2	2	1	
Fencing	2	1		
Garage	1	2	2	1
Guest House	1	1	1	1
Landscaping	1	2		
Mailbox	1	1	1	1
New Construction	3	2	1	
Remodel	2	2		
Wall	1	1	2	

Covenants	Reviewed	Pending	Comp.
Debris	2	1	1
Dumpster	1	1	
Lights	1	1	
Re-Vegetation	1		1
Solar Panels	1		1
Storage Units	1	1	1
Vehicles	1	1	



In an effort to build a network between Neighborhood Watch Area Leaders in areas 1 through 9, I'm asking all NW Area Leaders to e-mail me at CFANews@msn.com so we can set a date and place to meet and become acquainted with our active NW areas.

For those who wish to reactivate or start at Neighborhood Watch you may contact me at MSLec51@msn.com and I will send an overview on how to start a watch program.



"If a burglar is in the kitchen eating your casserole, I'll bury him in the morning."

Using Water Wisely in Your Landscape

Know how much water your plants need.

Fertilizers promote plant growth and increase water consumption.

Apply minimum amounts.

Use organic mulch on root zones; moisture will stay in the soil longer.

Water in the early mornings, so that water gets to the roots instead of evaporating due to the sun and wind.

Soil probes can help determine how deep the water has penetrated into the soil.

Established plants (1-3 years) that are desert adapted can survive on rainfall along with occasional supplemental watering during extended dry periods.

Potted plants have restricted root systems and less soil so they typically need more frequent watering.

Test sprinklers and water outputs.

Match your watering system to your plant needs.

You can save 30 to 50 % by adjusting your irrigation each season.

As plants grow, a reevaluation of water placement should be applied

Signs of under watering:

- Older leaves turn yellow or brown
- Leaves are dull, wilted or dropping
- Leaves curl
- Stems or branches die back

Signs of over watering:

- Leaves turn light shade of green or yellow
- Young shoots wilt
- Growth is excessive
- Algae and or mushrooms are on or around plants

Recommendations for conserving water.

Think about using gray water or rain water for your plants.

Using gray water has requirements from the AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Water harvesting can be done inexpensively by good planning.

Use more water conserving plants that are adaptive to the desert environment.

Tucson local plants come in incredible range of forms, textures, and colors and can be mixed and matched to create lush oasis atmosphere or stark and dramatic desert-scapes.

Some helpful resources:

Websites

Water Harvesting- <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1052/www.harvestingrainwater.com>

Water Systems- www.wateruseitwisely.com

Water Conservation- www.sahra.arizona.edu/

Books

Low-care Landscapes- Low Water Use Plants by Carol Shuler

Plants for Dry Climates by Mary Rose Duffield and Warran Jones

Desert Trees published by the AZ Native Plant Society

Agaves, Yuccas and related Plants by Mary and Gary Irish

AZ Native Plant Society booklets

Water Harvesting

Water harvesting is the process of intercepting storm water runoff and putting it to beneficial use. Intercepted storm water can be collected, slowed down, and retained or routed through the site landscaped using micro basins, swales and other water harvesting structures. Capturing and using storm water runoff also reduces site discharge and erosion, and reduces the dependence on dwindling groundwater reserves.

How will water harvesting benefit your site?

Increase water availability for on-site vegetation

Reduce on-site flooding and erosion

Reduce water bills and groundwater pumping

Extend the life of landscaping as rainwater is usually low in salt content and relatively high in nitrogen

Here are a few tips from the water harvesting guidance manual:

Seven Principals in Harvesting Water

- 1- Start managing water at the top of the watershed
- 2- Create multiple small watersheds
- 3- Collect, slow and infiltrate the water
- 4- Prepare for overflow
- 5- Mulch to reduce evaporation
- 6- Put harvested water to beneficial use
- 7- Adjust and maintain your system as needed

Integrated site design matches the needs of the site with the products of the site to create an efficient design that saves resources while improving the function and sustainability of the site. An integrated design is based on detail site analysis.

Five steps towards an Integrated Site Design

- 1- Adopt an integrated design process based on multidisciplinary approach.
- 2-Analyze site characteristics and conditions
- 3-Identify the potential to use harvested water and other site resources
- 4-Develop an integrated design for the site
- 5-Prepare detail designs

For more detail information, review the pdf guidance manual at www.dot.ci.tucson.az.us/stormwater/downloads/2006waterharvesting.pdf

You will find detailed information on the process and techniques on harvesting storm water runoff. This water harvesting guidance manual will give illustrated descriptions and examples. Also keep in mind that mosquitoes are an increasing problem in Tucson. Careful planning, sizing, and maintaining of water-harvesting systems will prevent the creation of mosquito habitats which can and should be avoided.

Prior to starting your water harvesting project, be sure you supply plans and your architectural application to the architectural committee for review and approval.

Invasive Plants

Often invasive plants don't reveal themselves immediately. They may seem to be well-behaved landscape plants for decades. Eventually a few escape and adapt to natural areas. Then without warning the invasive plant population can explode. Without prompt action, an invader may overwhelm a natural area. The deserts grasslands, mountains, and riparian areas of Southeastern Arizona are rich in biodiversity. Plants, animals and soil organisms have evolved together for thousands of years to form intricate communities. Invasive plants upset this balance. Their impacts can cause a chain reaction of harmful effects to the environment.

On the loose and out of control:

Fountain grass
(*Pennisetum setaceum*)



Fountain Grass
Pennisetum setaceum

Buffelgrass
(*Pennisetum ciliare*)



Buffelgrass
Pennisetum ciliare

African sumac (*Rhus lancea*)



Female tree (right) has seedlings, where as the male plant (left) does not. Having *just* male trees will minimize offspring in the affected area.



Rhus lancea

Other invasives:

- Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)
- Feather Top (*Pennisetum villosum*)
- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)
- Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Salt cedar or tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.)
- Vinca or periwinkle (*Vinca major*)
- Aquatic Plants
 - Parrot-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
 - Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
 - Water thyme (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
 - Mosquito fern (*Azolla pinnata*)

All these plants are listed with the AZ Native Plant Society. It is up to each homeowner and their HOA Association to take an initiative and help control invasive plants and protect our native desert vegetation. Please visit their web-site at www.aznps.org for more information on how to eliminate and what native alternatives can be used in the place of these plant pest.

* Some of the above information was taken from the AZ Native Plant Society brochure

Thinking about going solar?

Five things you need to know about going solar.

- 1- Determine whether you have an appropriate site.
 - Your home must have unobstructed or unshaded area facing south, east, west. You'll need an average of 600 to 700 sq. ft. of space for an electricity producing system. A thermal system, which heats water supply or pool heating system, requires 100 sq. ft.
- 2-Familiarize yourself with solar energy types and price tags
 - A solar thermal system has an avg. cost of \$6000 and pays for itself in about 5 to 7 yrs. Solar pool heaters avg. \$5000 their pay back is 3 yrs. A typical 5-kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) system, which generates electricity, costs \$40,000 and generally pays for its self in 6 to 12 years.
- 3-Examine your current utility bill; will the cost become a cost saving option?
 - If you are paying 15cents per kilowatt-hour or more, then installing a PV is a cost saving option. (Visit pvwatts.org to tally savings)
- 4- Hook up to a utility
 - Net metering arrangements allow the PV system to send excess electricity into the utility grid.
- 5- Get some money back.
 - Federal tax credits, state rebate programs and utility company incentives can offset the cost. Visit dsireusa.org for information on incentives for using renewable energy.

Prior to installing please submit your plans and architectural application to the architectural committee for review and approval.
The above information was obtain from USA Weekend Sept 2007- by Mary Forsell

Monsoon Safety Tips

Take precautions and use common sense when the monsoon storms hit. Here are a few simple tips to help you stay safe:

Lightning

- Lightning is attracted to metal and water, and tends to strike the highest or tallest objects. You are in a strike zone if you hear thunder five seconds or less after you see lightning!
- Avoid wide, open areas such as fields and golf courses.
- Avoid metal objects such as golf carts and clubs, lawn mowers and pipes.
- Get to the lowest point of ground you can, and kneel or squat to minimize your contact points with the ground. Do not lie flat. This will make you a bigger target. If you're out on the water, get to land.
- If you're in a pool, get out.

Indoor Safety

- Stay away from windows during strong winds. Tree limbs and other wind-borne objects can be a hazard.
- Electrical wiring attracts lightning. Avoid using the telephone, except for emergencies.
- Lighting can move through a home's plumbing, attracted to the metal or water. Avoid using sinks and showers.
- Disconnect computers, TV's and other delicate electronic equipment.

Stuck in a Wash

Control of a vehicle is lost in 6 inches of water. Most vehicles will begin to float in 2 feet of water.

- If you have a phone, call 911.
- If you can, climb onto the roof and wait to be rescued.
- If the water is still low and you can wade to safety, do so, but beware of floating debris.

by Ken Scoville

Summer Tradition in the Old Pueblo

One of the great summer traditions of the Old Pueblo that has virtually disappeared is sleeping outside. An entire ritual of desert culture has been lost to frame-stucco home construction, evaporative coolers or refrigeration, and crime statistics. Prior to these 20th century devices, sleeping under the stars was a tradition for all desert dwellers living in town or the wide open spaces of the foothills. No matter what the roof over your head was, it became quickly abandoned after sunset for a view of the stars and some imagined breeze.

New arrivals to desert life by stagecoach and later by the railroad were often abruptly introduced to the necessary summer strategy of evading the day's heat and relishing the night. A famous account of early Tucson life by a travel writer J. Ross Browne was published by Harper's New Monthly Magazine in 1864. In his "Adventures in the Apache Country: A Tour Through Arizona and Sonora," he recounted:

I heard of a blacksmith, named Burke, who invited a friend to stop a while with him in Tucson. Both parties drank whisky all day for occupation and pleasure. When bedtime came, Burke said, 'Let's go home and turn in.' He led the way up to the Plaza, and began to hand off his clothes. 'What are you doing?' inquired his guest. 'Going to bed,' said Burke — 'this is where I gen'rally sleep.' And they both turned in on to the plaza, which if hard was at least well-aired and roomy. The stranger started for the Rio Grande the next day.

The climate and the use of adobe for the construction of most of the Old Pueblo from earliest times to the arrival of the railroad in 1880 reinforced this summer tradition. Thick walls of adobe did not stop the invading heat but only slowed this exchange, so that your home would be tolerable during the day and the heat would greet the inhabitants by sundown. The roof of these Sonoran row houses also provided a mud defense with anywhere between twelve to sixteen inches of mud supported by pine log beams (vigas) and

saguaro skeletons (savinias). The very site placement of these homes contributed to this defense strategy with a cheek-to-jowl orientation and often common walls. Wood was very scarce and long eaves to shade windows and walls was not really available prior to the arrival of the railroad.

Fashion also arrived by rail in 1880 and Tucson embraced these new ideas that started the course of denial to the climate realities of the desert. New homes often built on speculation began to pander to the eastern ways with Victorian houses of brick construction, detached and proudly standing on a separate lot. The new arrivals felt at home with these dwellings and were enchanted by the mild winter climate. A rude awakening began in late May when their happy life was interrupted by the fact that it was oppressively hot inside their Victorian charmer by the afternoon. Those ugly and unfashionable mud boxes were still relatively cool inside and those happy homeowners were preparing for the summer nights outside. The only strategy for fashion-conscious Armory Park residents was to plant trees with a vengeance. The availability of imported trees provided the necessary sunscreen to windows and walls but provided little roof screening until many years of hot summers later. Fashion and comfort even invaded the courtyard or later backyard with the Arizona bedroom providing a canvas awning over the bed so that the monsoons would not interfere with a good night's sleep. You would not have to run for the house to stay dry but a few good rounds of thunder would still do the trick.

Sleeping outside during the summer was the result of building materials, architectural traditions, and no mechanical means to cool the air inside your home. The harsh reality of desert life has been artificially obscured since the 1930's with evaporative cooling, but a night outside still became reality during the monsoons. Refrigeration systems allow us to totally forget our desert reality until something conks out. We then have the opportunity to relive Territorial times in the Old Pueblo.

Wanted: *PAINT!*

Many of our street signs are in dire need of painting. The CFA was able to acquire a painter who will hand-letter each street name, paint sign panel and post, unfortunately the CFA does not have the finances to have the signs repainted. So as an alternate way to get the signs repainted we are asking residents to sponsor their street names. It can be done individually or with neighbors. *Each street name* will be at a cost of Forty Dollars. There are 68 sign post and a total of 146 street names in Cat 1 through 6. Cat 8 and 9 as well as the condo and townhome communities have their own governing board and would have to contact the secretary if they wish to pursue a repainting project. Cat 7 has already repainted their signs, drive through Cat 7 and see what a difference it makes! (take Via Entrada off of River Rd)

If you wish to sponsor a street name, send in the form on the last page of this newsletter, with payment to:

CFA Sign Repainting Project
PO Box 64546, Tucson, AZ 85728.

For more information, contact CFA at 327-9693 or send an e-mail to: jhoffmanj@hotmail.com.



Current



RePainted





Catalina Foothills Association

P.O. Box 64546
Tucson, Arizona 85728-4546

Devoted to the preservation of the unique residential character of the Catalina Foothills

**NON-PROFIT
ORG.**
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 213

(See article Pg 9)



- Total signs per Area
- Cat 1 - 20 post 34 street names
- Cat 2 - 4 post 7 street names
- Cat 3 - 3 post 6 street names
- Cat 4 - 5 post 10 street names
- Cat 5 - 22 post 60 street names
- Cat 6 - 14 post 29 street names

Area _____

Location of sign post _____

\$40. per Street Name

Contact Person _____

Contact Number _____
