



VOL. 14 No 1

Catalina Foothills Association

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 1999

Post Office Box 64546 • Tucson, Arizona 85728-4546
Devoted to the preservation of the unique character of the Catalina Foothills since 1952

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ASSOCIATION FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Wednesday, January 20, 1999	7:00 P.M.	St. Philip's in the Hills Church, "The Murphey East Gallery"

PROGRAM: Wildlife, their Habitats, and the Sonoran Desert
Conservation Plan

After refreshments, CFA Board President David Hill will make some opening remarks. Following the opening remarks, four speakers will address the Program Topic (above). These folks are:

- Craig Miller Southwest Representative, Defenders of Wildlife
- Carolyn Campbell Chairperson, Coalition for the Sonoran Desert
Conservation Plan
- Maveen Behan Assistant to the Pima County Administrator
- Bruce Messelt Assistant to the Tucson City Manager

Also making a brief presentation will be Katherine Jacobson. Ms. Jacobson will not address the Program Topic; instead she will fill us in on important local commercial and civic developments:

1. Current update about commercial development at Skyline and Campbell Avenue.
2. Improvements to the design of River Road east of Campbell Avenue.

The makeup of the program of the annual meeting reflects the Board's understanding of topics that interest you, the Catalina Foothills resident:

- The quality of life in the desert foothills, especially with respect to
 - maintaining healthy native flora and fauna,
 - planning development of our neighborhoods to protect and preserve native flora and fauna and our chosen lifestyle, and
 - continuing support of regional issues which may affect the larger Tucson community.

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1999

What is this Catalina Foothills Association, who's on its Board of Directors, what do they do, and why should I support their efforts?

The Catalina Foothills Association is a homeowners' organization which was begun around 1952, when this area of the Catalina foothills was beginning to be developed. Although Catalina Foothills Estates #7, #8, and #9 now have their own associations (and they are good ones!), these came to be only after their individual neighborhoods were developed and reached sufficient maturity to look after and preserve their own best interests. We and they share the same goal: maintaining the highest possible standard for quality of life for the people who live in our neighborhood (the Catalina Foothills). That is our *only* goal; we have no political or social agendas. We are neither bluebloods nor aristocrats nor social climbers nor jet-setters; we are your neighbors. We are unpaid volunteers who happen to live in the Catalina Foothills and we want to preserve and protect the unique qualities that this area of the Sonoran Desert affords its residents. Here's who we are:

NAME	AREA	TELEPHONE
David Hill, President	3	299-1633
T.S. Edison, Sec./Treasurer	5	299-2712
Barbara Burke	7	299-2889
David B. Elwood	7	299-4393
Lera Gates	2	299-6266
Neel Hall	1	299-6512
William Glascock	2	529-0694
Maureen Hutter	5	529-1961
George A. Kiersch	4	299-3776
Tony Lubbermann	8	299-4953
James J. Perrine	3	299-8271
David Ryan	4	299-8763
Dr. David Wayne Smith	5	529-0155
Virginia Sonett	5	299-3937
Sterling Torrance	7	299-9026
John Trang	1	299-1019
<u>SECRETARY TO THE BOARD</u>		
Jane Hoffmann		327-9693

PLEASE REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

As we walk or drive through our neighborhoods, many of us frequently encounter illegally dumped trash. Most often this consists of landscaping or construction debris (tree and brush trimmings, left-over mortar or cement puddles, asphalt pieces, bricks, blocks, et al.) Contractors and homeowners are responsible for most of these wildcat dumples, and we must report the infractions immediately or they will continue.

Illegal Dumping Hotline

622-5800

CATALINA FOOTHILLS HISTORY

(this is the third in a continuing series of articles about this subject)

By Jeanne Hull and Molly E. Thompson, CFA Historians

[In 1959] The Charter was signed by the following property owners, who became the first Board of Directors of the Association, with original terms varying from one to three years each:

Mrs. Katherine Boyd-Hunt
A.E. Butterfield
Walter Fathauer
John H. Haugh
Chester L. Kingsbury
Joseph N. Royal
Douglas J. McFarlane
Robert L. Hale
Harold O. Reif

Most mailing addresses were listed by rural route and box number at the time of incorporation.

These Articles of Incorporation were revised in 1979 when new state regulations required it. The revision was signed on February 15, 1978 by Philip Hawley Smith, President of the Association, and Clinton E. Ring, Secretary.

By-Laws also were drawn up in 1959, consisting of ten separate items, covering comprehensively the officers, Board of Directors and their terms, duties of officers, meetings of the Board (originally, upon call of the President or at the request of any three members of the Board); quorum, corporation membership, meetings and eligibility for membership in the corporation; membership fees and annual dues; committees, business policies, and interpretation and amendment of By-laws. The general format of these original By-laws has remained essentially the same with revisions of content in 1964, 1977, 1984, 1993, and 1996.

The Board of Directors met originally at the homes of its nine members until April of 1974, after which meetings were held in the old Murphey Elementary School on River Road near Campbell Avenue, until the school was closed and sold.

Subsequently the Board met in several other places, including Orange Grove Middle School, and the at La Parroquia in St. Philips in the Hills Church.

As early as 1963, the Directors dealt with such problems as widening of Campbell Avenue south of River Road (Campbell was then a narrow, two-lane road with a deep drainage ditch on one side); a bridge over the Rillito River at Campbell Avenue and River Road; the possible extension of the Covenants or Deed Restrictions after 1980 in areas already developed; rezoning, and fire protection.

Also in 1963, Association President Sarah Hirsch reported in a comprehensive newsletter to residents the lack of fire protection and the possible need for a fire district and a foothills fire station. However, for the Association itself, the problems of establishing such a station were great, including standpipes for water supply, a building, equipment, and financing. Since Rural Fire Protection Company, which became Rural Metro in 1948, already had a station on the east side of Tucson, and since it was only a matter of time before they would locate one on the west side as well, it was decided to use their services.

In 1963, however, the most pressing problem was rezoning. Catalina Foothills Estates One through Four had been developed, with an indication that the development of parcels of land adjacent to and at the north end of Campbell Avenue would follow. Attempts to rezone parcels of land to assure greater density resulted in the formation of a zoning committee of the Association Board. During the Annual Membership Meeting of 1963, after a particularly difficult rezoning matter, the zoning committee chairman, Herbert Ullman, reported: "Constant vigilance will be necessary from now on."

By 1964, a problem annoying property owners for some time came close to the boiling point. Foothills home owners were likely to awaken in the morning to find cattle grazing contentedly upon the shrubs and flowers outside their windows, sometimes causing extensive property damage. Complaints reached a level at which letters were written to the Forest Service, in whose domain the matter lay, asking "That renewals of grazing permits on the land contiguous to our area be denied or conditioned upon

measures to prevent further trespassing." The Forest Service took action by removing cattle from land adjacent to foothills homes, but stated that the private land was classified as "open range" where "it is incumbent upon the property owners to fence against livestock." The Association responded by circulating a petition to obtain a classification as a "no-fence" area, so that property owners would not be required to fence against livestock. This change of classification solved the problem successfully.

OUT ON A LIMB

The Landscape Committee of the CFA Board of Directors has as a primary goal the maintenance of the landscape in the Catalina Foothills. We encourage residents to maintain healthy, primarily native flora on their properties. The Landscape Committee also wants to see the medians on the county-maintained roadways in the Catalina Foothills properly cared for. This has been a problem in the past because not everyone is skilled and/or trained well enough to do a proper job of trimming trees and shrubs in our neighborhoods, and this certainly has applied to at least some of the Pima County Operations Maintenance workers in the recent past.

The Landscape Committee has been working with Mary Lou Johnson of the Pima County Road Maintenance Department to develop a standard operating procedure for trimming trees, bushes, etc., and general maintenance of medians and "rights of way" on our roads. Consequently, Pima County sent its Operations Maintenance staff and the staff from the county's landscape contractor, Groundskeeper,

to classes (including lectures and field training) conducted by John Begeman of the University of Arizona's Cooperative Agricultural Extension. The newly trained crews started work along Via Entrada in November, and a manual of the newly developed procedures was carried in the crew supervisor's truck.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly until some mature trees were either "scalped" or cut to the ground. All work came to a sudden halt as neighbors were outraged! We hope to have the program restarted in January, 1999, but we have been advised that the county has instructed their crews not to respond to residents' complaints. In fact, Pima County told the crews to pack up and leave if they were approached by local homeowners ("they have a schedule to meet.")

Because much time and effort has been spent by both the CFA committee and the county, we *do* want to see this project succeed. Not only will our area be improved, but so will the entire county, but only if they do it right!

THE RAT PACK

You may recall that in the last newsletter javelinas were discussed. That article was mostly about the juxtaposition of the natives (javelinas) and the yards of the relative newcomers (Catalina Foothills residents.)

Javelinas may sometimes become a nuisance, but many of us who live in the Foothills area would have to choose the packrat as our number-one pest. We already know about the destruction caused by these furry fellows, especially to things outside which have insulated wires, like cars, pool heaters, and other such devices. I personally have spent over one thousand dollars in repair costs over the past ten years or so. Not only are packrats destructive, but they are unsanitary, messy and they can be a downright health hazard. This is not only because of their profligate pooping (and urinating), but also because their nests are commonly used by those little vampires, the reduvid beetles ("kissing bugs") to raise *their* nasty little families. Lastly, pack rats are constantly transporting little pieces of cactus to and fro, which always manage to stick in my hands.

So, you're asking, "What can I do about the packrats at my house?" If these guys are causing you grief, there are basically three kinds of rat-management plans (not counting doing nothing at all).

First of all, you can leave the packrats alone and protect those things they like to damage. Hardware cloth around the pool heater and other outdoor electrical appliances will work fine. Many people leave the hoods of their cars open all day and night (packrats are nocturnal, and prefer dark, enclosed spaces). Even better is to hang a mechanic's light under the open hood of your vehicle (and turn it on at night). These things work pretty well, but are not 100% effective. You may also clear out packrat nests near your house, and clean up all small debris that they could use to build a nest.

One small problem with this kind of solution is that, if a packrat has already established a nest, she'll want to rebuild it in the same place (and so will all her friends; after all, it smells really great, and is nice and cool and filthy).

This leads us to the second potential solution: you kill the little buggers! Please don't use poison; some other wild animal may eat the packrat carcass and die along with ratty. That leaves traps (your neighbors will call the Sheriff if you start *shooting* the rats). Some folks use regular rat traps, but the experts tell us that humane ("Have-a-Hart") traps are better (I agree). Peanut butter is the preferred bait (the rats love it, and it's easy to apply). One gentleman told me he baits his traps, but does not *set* them, for two days in a row, and then baits and sets the traps on the third day ("Gets 'em ever' time!") The advantage of humane traps is that you can determine *after* you catch the packrats what to do with them. However, it is really hard to look at them and decide their fate because they're awfully cute! Personally, I used to take the rats at least a mile away and turn them loose (any closer and they may find their way back home). Of course, I always suspected that a lady over there was catching her rats and turning them loose at my house: tit for tat. So, I started to euthanize the packrats, and I still (reluctantly) do. Most of my acquaintances do, too. Many just attach a rope to the trap and throw it in the swimming pool to drown the rat (that one is not for me). Owning a cat is a possible rat-management plan, except that kitty, if left to roam at will in the desert, will also kill birds, snakes, and lizards. I would rather have the latter than the former.

The third rat-management plan you may opt for is to pay a professional to take care of the packrats for you. Fortunately, here in Tucson we have some very conscientious pest-control people. Personally, I refuse to have any chemical spraying done around my

house, or poison applied (I'm not an emotional, hot-headed, tree-hugging environmental wacko; I'm an Organic Chemist who likes insects and spiders.) You can contact a pest-control company

who will come out to your house, remove (humanely) all packrats, clean up their messes, and make your place much less hospitable for all of their little furry friends.

DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE

Javelinas and packrats are but two of the many animals which live in our Sonoran Desert. We choose to live *with* them, in the same place. Other native animals sharing our habitat are: hawks (mostly Harris and red-tail), bobcats, cougars (very rarely), owls (screech, elf, pigmy, great-horned, burrowing, et al.), rabbits (cottontail and jack), ground squirrels (Harris, and rock), coyotes, mice (many kinds, including kangaroo rats), tortoises, box turtles, quail (mainly Gambel's), dove (mourning, white-winged, and Incas), lizards, snakes, and many others.

With so many diverse critters living in the same place, each with its own requirements, when we move in (with *our* own requirements), isn't it inevitable that something untoward is going to happen?

Let me now describe for you some of the interesting things which *have* happened as a result of the attempted accommodation of man (newcomer Catalina Foothills resident) and beast (those mentioned above).

One of the first things that a new Foothills resident notices is that there are *lots* of critters around here, and they're fun to watch. Perhaps most favored among newcomers are the quail. So, sooner or later, many of us start putting out bird seed and quail blocks. We ought to have remembered that old admonition, "Don't mess with Mother Nature!" Anyhow, sure enough, the quail told their friends, and pretty soon the place is swarming with beautiful birds. Hummingbird feeders soon follow. Ground squirrels and other small mammals discover the largesse, and pretty soon the local population explosion is in full swing.

Javelina starting coming to munch on the quail blocks and snuffle up the bird seed, destroying many ornamental plants in the process. In our case, we made the bird food inaccessible to squirrels and javelinas; they visit much less frequently now. Some folks, for whatever reason, haven't been so fortunate. One neighborhood (Shadow Roc) experienced so much trouble from javelinas that they consulted the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The latter, after investigating the scope of the problem, decided to tranquilize and relocate the herd, which they did. I hope that doesn't happen in our neighborhoods, but I have heard rumors that Game and Fish is *considering* a javelina roundup here too! I certainly hope that it doesn't come to pass.

Another consequence of our bird feeding has been the appearance of at least two bird predators. One of these, a sharp-skinned hawk, spends much of his time around the bird feeding area, snacking on birdies (mostly mourning doves). We still get to watch the birds, but not as frequently as in the past; they're not around when Mr. hawk is present.

The second predator has been a bobcat. She has been living in a eucalyptus tree in the front yard, and has raised two youngsters up there. They snack on the birds, too. Unfortunately, however, the other day, Ms. wildcat discovered our (outdoor) fishpond, and ate all of our koi and goldfish in a single night's gluttony!

So, go ahead and feed those birds if you must, but eventually there may be unexpected consequences of your actions.

SOME SOMETIMES-HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FOOTHILLS ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Pima County Board of Supervisors

- District 1: Mike Boyd (Republican) 740-8126
- District 4: Ray Carroll (Republican) 740-8126
- FAX line 622-0448

State Legislative District 13

- Senator George Cunningham (Democrat) 628-6596
- Rep. Brian Fagin (Democrat) 628-6593
- Rep. Andy Nichols (Democrat) 628-6593

State Legislative District 12

- Senator Ann Day (Republican) 628-6596
- Rep. "Freddy" Hershberger (Republican) 628-6593
- Rep. Dan Schottel (Republican) 628-6593

Fifth U.S. Congressional District

- U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (Republican) 881-3588

City of Tucson

Mayor & Council

- Citizen Comment Line 791-4700
- Police Information 791-4452

Pima County

- Assessor 740-8630
- Animal Control Center 743-7987
- Sheriff's Dept. Information 741-4600

State of Arizona

- Registrar of Contractors 628-6345
- Motor Vehicle Division
 - Drivers' Licenses 629-9808
 - Title & Registration 629-9808

MORE TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Pima County Board of Supervisors

- EPA 1-800-438-2474
- Childhelp (Abuse) 1-800-422-4453
- Arizona Tourism Office 1-800-842-8257
- Illegal Dumping Hotline 622-5800

DUES ASSESSMENTS 1999

Areas	1-6	\$30.
Areas	7-9 and all condominiums & townhomes that have their own homeowners'-association-mandated dues	\$10.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 64546
 Tucson, AZ 85728-4546

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL HEARING
ON THE
CANOA RANCH DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Tuesday, January 12, 1999	4:30 P.M.	Sahuarita High School

PROGRAM: This is a Special Hearing, to be held in the town of Sahuarita, immediately after which the Pima County Board of Supervisors will make a decision about how the proposed Canoa Ranch development (just south of Green Valley, along the Santa Cruz River) may proceed.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors is holding this Special Hearing in Sahuarita so as to be close to the folks who live in the affected neighborhoods. This will give these people a chance to have their voices heard by the Board of Supes concerning this important matter.

If you wish to attend this significant hearing, follow I-19 south toward Nogales and then take the Helmet Peak Road exit. Turn left (east) on Helmet Peak Road and proceed to Sahuarita High School; it will be on your left after about half a mile.

P.O. Box 64546 • Tucson, Arizona 85728

Catalina foothills Association



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