



CATALINA FOOTHILLS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to preserving the unique character of the Tucson Foothills

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www.cfatuson.org

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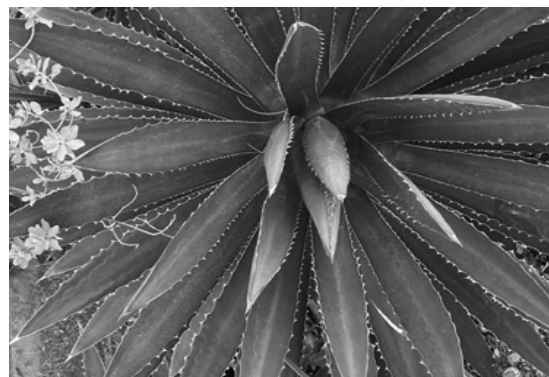


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Newsletter

WINTER 2020 | www.cfatuson.org | PO Box 64546, Tucson, AZ 85728-64546 | 520-529-2169



Pictured above: *Agave univittata* or *lophantha*.
Read more about "non-native" plants, below.

ARE THERE NON-NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE?

Many non-native plants are available at local desert plant shops since they don't cause allergies, although one in particular causes blindness in cattle. "Why are they sold?" I asked at one local shop and was told by the proprietor that he sold them because there was public demand for them.

In an attempt to improve the aesthetic of the landscape, the previous owner of my house along with the owner of the neighboring house planted many species that did not conform to the dictates of the local desert environment. As time went by these non-native species began to dominate the landscape of somewhat similar native species. Soon I had a yard of densely packed invaders, and the species dominant in the takeover were cacti, succulents and trees.

Blind Prickly Pear

Blind Prickly Pear (*Opuntia rufida*) is native to the southern Big Bend region of Texas and adjacent Mexico. This cactus is a low-height species that overwhelms its neighbors in its territorial aggression. The glochids of rust-colored small stickers can be dislodged by wind, especially in a dry season.

Angel Wings

Another similar variety is angel wings cactus (*Opuntia microdasys albata*). This species is native to central and northern Mexico. The fallen pads make excellent pack rat habitat as shown in the background of the cow's tongue photo.

Cow's Tongue

This prickly pear (sometimes referred to as *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *linguiformis*) is one of the largest prickly pear species. It will grow in denser clusters than the native prickly pear.

Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera, a native of Africa, is a medicinal plant. Though succulents, they are aloes and not agaves. They will shortly take over any area where planted; therefore, they are best planted in a large (at least 2 ft in diameter) pot to contain them.

Agave

A type of agave which thrives in the shade in Tucson but is native to coastal areas of southern Texas and northeastern Mexico at low elevations is *Agave univittata* or *lophantha*. It is identified by its center stripe. This variety can take over a landscape if it takes hold in the shade under a tree.

Fan Palm

There are both Mexican and California varieties of fan palm. To get an idea of what palms can do to an area, travel no further east than to Agua Caliente Park and visit the museum containing sequential pictures of its development. It started as a beautiful mesquite bosque and presently is overtaken by these palms.

African Sumac (*Rhus Lancia*)

This tree, a native of Africa, sends out fingers making them very prolific. The county parks noticed this behavior on the south side of the Rillito River path at 1st Avenue and removed them.

Desert Broom

A native species that is invasive is the Desert Broom. More a bush than a tree, it is not native to many desert areas but grows typically in disturbed soils and can take over. To see what this looks like, view the culvert area just under N. Via Elena.

It is challenging to remove prickly pear, but misting them with water so that they are wet during clearing will minimize glochid movement. Wear eye protection and long sleeves to protect skin. Handle the cacti with tongs as the glochids will work through leather gloves quickly making them unusable.

Instead planting these invasive species, plant a creosote bush (*Larrea tridentate*, or *divaricate*) or Sagebrush (*Salvia*) for color and olfactory stimulation during rains. Another option is to plant an area of small hedgehog cactus adjacent to a barrel cactus. As Judy Mielke says in her book, *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes*, "Native plants create the natural beauty of the desert. These plants have adapted to the desert and require very little attention."

Thank you to the U of A Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners for assistance with plant identification. ~Robert Sogge (Area 3)

BENEFITS OF HAVING A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

As a resident of the Catalina Foothills area, you may ask yourself — what are the benefits of joining your homeowners association and what do you get for your annual dues? As a past resident of La Reserve and a mandatory member of their homeowners association, I was often frustrated by the large amount of monthly fees and their designated use. Since moving to Catalina Foothills and volunteering to pay the annual fee, I've discovered that I am receiving considerable support and protection for a mere \$50.00 a year.

This support was most evident in 2019 when our board was instrumental in getting the mayor and council to vote against the Karma Del Sol annexation near the River and Campbell intersection. From the onset of this project, I attended the meetings and left continuously frustrated that this annexation would hamper the traffic flow and interfere with the magnificent views in the area. I felt that everyone who spoke up to question the validity of this annexation was not being heard. When I read that the CFA Board had been influential in shutting down the developer's request, I volunteered to be a member of the Board.

As your delegate to the Board I volunteered to Chair the History Committee. So as a passionate quasi-historian, I will examine the history of the Board and some of the other issues that the Board's influence has exerted in protecting our properties.

From the beginning of the 1960's until the turn of the century, the CFA was concerned with and acted on the widening of Campbell Avenue south of River Road, a bridge over the Rillito on Campbell, covenants or deed restrictions after 1980 in developed areas, rezoning, fire protection, open range cattle grazing, sewer issues, and the defeat of the "Planned Unit Development", including repeated requests for rezoning to greater densities.

The Campbell Coalition was formed in July 2000 to gather and distribute information to property owners. Its roots, however, extended well back into the 20th century. The coalition was originally focused on the fight against construction in the Campbell Wash. In 1993, our Board and a group of residents went before the Pima County Board of Supervisors and successfully argued for the nullification of building permits for construction in the Campbell Wash.

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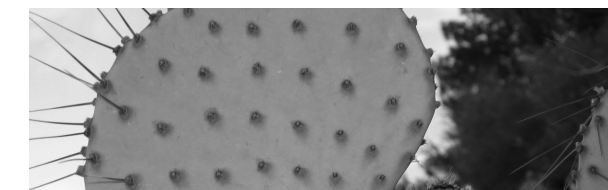
ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2021
6:30pm

In this unusual year, the annual business meeting will be held online. Please send email to annual-meeting@cfatuson.org to register, and you will be emailed information on how to connect.

IN GRATITUDE: BREDA CRONIN

Breda Cronin will be leaving her position as the CFA Secretary to the Board this December after 10 years of service. We are extremely grateful for the excellent job she has done organizing the annual meeting, documenting the monthly meetings, and handling the business of the Board including everything from dues collection to CC&R-related issues, as well as managing correspondence from everyone in our community. Please join me in expressing thanks for a job well done and best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors!



IN MEMORIAM: JUNE LECLAIR BUCKO 1941 - 2020

June Leclair Bucko served as a Board member on the Catalina Foothills Association Board from 2005 to 2011. June will be remembered for her dedication in keeping the Foothills beautiful as she took on the repainting of the old signs throughout Areas 1-9, as well as her commitment to the production of the CFA newsletter for many years. June was also involved in Neighborhood Watch and attended many annual meetings during and after her term on the Board to promote this important program. June will be dearly missed.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to our longtime members of the Old Foothills and welcome to those who are new to the community.

This is the time of year when we elect new Board members at the Annual Meeting in January, and then elect new CFA Officers (i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) at the next monthly Board meeting which is usually in February.

Having a functioning Board is critical to the continued success of the CFA and preservation of our community. With the ever increasing population in the Tucson metro area, pressure to significantly develop in and around the Old Foothills in ways that sometimes conflict with the CFA vision only gets worse.

I urge those of you in our community who have the capacity to serve on the Board, please do so.

~Todd Proebsting, Vice President

VISIT US ONLINE

The CFA has a fresh new online presence with a reimagined website!! Please visit us at <https://www.cfatucson.org> to learn more about Board membership and activities, how and when to initiate an architectural review, as well as get access to past newsletters, read historical stories about our area, and more!



BENEFITS OF HAVING A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

(continued from pg. 1)

Again in 2005 a developer tried to get permits to build in the Campbell Wash. The Board sent representatives to the hearing and urged additional homeowners to attend, encouraging media attention and press coverage. Finally in June of 2006 experts reported that problems could develop by building in the wash, and the building permits were denied.

In 2010 the Skyline Campbell Community Coalition played a historic part in the agreement governing development of La Encantada. Prior to that agreement in 2003, they completed an agreement on the southeast corner with the developer which insisted on stringent neighborhood protections. The southwest corner was protected by an agreement in 2006, and the coalition played a dominant role in insuring neighborhood buffers and sound walls during the Skyline road widening. The commitments made during this period of time assured action on concerns about noise, excess light, water drainage, mosquito control, and numerous miscellaneous issues brought forth by property owners. This was definitely a community effort, and we can be proud of our Board's part in the effective outcomes.

The fight against annexation in 2012 by Golder Ranch Fire District, which sought to annex greater areas into the Catalina Foothills thereby dissolving the CFA and extending boundaries eventually over to Sabino Canyon, is another example of the resilience of our community and its board. The CFA hosted a debate with Golder Ranch and Rural Metro to analyze the pros and cons of annexation. The debate was monitored by the League of Women Voters, Channel Four covered it on the news, and Arizona Daily Star published an article on it soon after.

Fast forward to 2017 and the 18.5 foot CVS sign at Campbell and Skyline. Although our efforts did not win the battle, we were able to reduce the size of sign, remove any possibility of additional signage and establish measurements "of the base at the present ground level locations." The CFA will be able to conduct final design review of the sign prior to enactment.

Needless to say this is not the end of our battles. As long as there is land available and developers looking to maximize their investments, we will need a strong Board to protect our properties and secure their heritage for future generations. Protect your investment by paying dues and perhaps volunteering for service that will benefit you and your community. ~Linda Bowers (Area 4)

Pictured left: Opuntia engelmanni var. linguiformis (cow's tongue prickly pear). Read more about "non-native" plants on page 4.

WE NEED BOARD MEMBERS!

Our homeowners association, the Catalina Foothills Association, is responsible for maintaining continuity and value throughout our community's properties. Members of the CFA Board of Directors are motivated people who hold the community and themselves accountable in a fair and ethical manner.

The non-profit CFA Board is entrusted with the duty to support and enforce the CFA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Covenant, Codes, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). Homes with CC&Rs are legally binding on your property. The CFA Board cannot continue to function unless there are dedicated homeowners willing to serve on the Board.

What are CFA Board Member Responsibilities?

The CFA Board is required to adopt an annual budget and collect dues from property owners. The Board also has the power to adopt and enforce rules and regulations established within the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and CC&Rs.

Interpret and Enforce the Rules.

The CFA Board believes it should exercise common sense. However, it's important that everyone in our community follows the same rules, even when those rules don't seem critical. The CFA CC&Rs are in place to protect you. **The CFA Board safeguards the value of your property** by making sure your neighbor doesn't encroach on your property, build an unattractive fence, denude the desert around their home, or paint their house bright orange, for example.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Meetings generally last an hour. The Board adjourns during July and August. Serving on a committee such as Architectural Review or Communications may require additional meetings at the committee's discretion. The term of Board membership is 3 years with the possibility of a second 3-year term.

Why Become Involved?

As a property owner, you have a big stake in your neighborhood. As a volunteer board member, you are essential to the harmonious functioning of the CFA community.

Protect your Property.

A top priority of every homeowner is to protect the value of his or her property. Involvement with the CFA will put you in a better position to implement rules in our community. Some of these regulations will directly affect property value, especially if they require decisions about the CFA's support and enforcement of CC&Rs.

Have Input on Issues affecting the Community at Large. Historically the CFA Board was critically involved in the

development of La Encantada, the four commercial corners at Campbell and Skyline, and the alignment of Campbell at River Rd. The CFA is a community association as well as a homeowners association. As a CFA Board member, you can assist in identification and possible correction of issues.

Gain Better Understanding of the CFA operations.

Volunteering as a board member will make you well-versed in laws and regulations related to our community By-laws and CC&Rs, and will also give you a good grasp of the CFA finances and budgeting.

Use Your Talents to Better Your Community.

If your background is legal, finance, marketing, web design, writing, administration, communications, etc. then you are well-suited to Board duties. The present and future Boards would welcome your knowledge and creative ideas on how to make our community function better.

Get to Know and Give Back to the Community.

One way to get to know your community and give back to your neighbors is to apply for the CFA Board and become an active participant.

If you have an interest in serving, please contact secretary@cfatucson.org

WE NEED YOU NOW!!

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President: Seeking Officer
Vice President: Todd Proebsting (Area 6)
Treasurer: Rick Treveloni (Area 5)
Secretary: Cathy Petry (Area 5)
Secretary to the Board: Breda Cronin
Area 1: Seeking representative
Area 2: Alan Bomberger, Sandie Czerniel
Area 3: Pat Hagerty, Robert Sogge
Area 4: Linda Bowers
Area 5: Seeking representative
Area 6: Donald Doran, Lola Graeme
Area 7: Seeking representative
Area 8: Ron Benson
Area 9: Seeking representative

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board generally meets at **7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month**. Holidays and vacation schedules sometimes result in the rescheduling or cancellation of a particular meeting, so please check with the secretary to the Board, 529-2169, to confirm a meeting time.

At the beginning of the meetings, the Board allows a ten minute period for "Resident Related Issues". These must be scheduled with the secretary two weeks before the meeting.