



MICK MEADER CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND

established with \$50,000 challenge grant—see page 4

Cascabel Conservation Association

Supporting Conservation, Community, and Contemplation in the Middle San Pedro Valley

2017 CCA NEWSLETTER

CCA and Archaeology Southwest Become Baicatán Partners



Archaeology Southwest

OUR ASSOCIATION HAS A LONG HISTORY WITH THE BAICATCAN property, which is the location of CCA’s campground, community garden and orchard. That history is a good example of how CCA partners with others in an effort to integrate the human and natural community in sustainable ways.

When the Taylors put their property up for sale, CCA staff searched for a conservation buyer and found them in five CCA (formerly CHA) members. Four of them were ultimately successful in procuring a conservation easement with the Bureau of Land Management on the basis of its environmental and cultural significance. In 2012 a buyout made CCA, Brandon and Jodi Wert, and Daniel Baker as each one-third owners in the property. When Daniel offered to donate his share to CCA, it was recommended and approved by the CCA board and members to donate it to Archaeology Southwest, a friend and respected advocate for conservation in the Lower San Pedro River Valley and elsewhere.

Archaeology Southwest (ASW) also has a long association with the property. In 2001 it sponsored Jim Vint’s research at the Taylor site. He found thirty-four Sobaipuri house

foundations and proposed it as the likely site of San Salvador de Baicatán where Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino visited in 1692. The site included other archaeological features that indicated a greater diversity of cultural resources and a time depth of more than 5,000 years, testimony to the site’s attractiveness to people.

ASW President Bill Doelle gratefully accepted Daniel’s donation and agreed to partner with CCA on the property. Working together CCA and ASW facilitated an agreement with the Werts who will sell their share to CCA and ASW while maintaining a lifelong lease on one of the three acre building envelopes. CCA and ASW will then become parity nonprofit owners and will be able to seek county property tax exclusion.

We are gratified to be able to partner with Archaeology Southwest on this special property, and to continue partnering on critical conservation issues in the valley. Baicatán, with both environmental and cultural riches, is a perfect fit for our organizations. It is a pleasure to work with ASW, to give respect to the Native Americans who lived here, and to do what we can to sustainably integrate the human and natural communities on this land.

Cascabel Community Orchards

WITH THE TEMPERATE SPRING WEATHER, WE'VE had fruit set on some peach, apricot, aprium and plum trees in our lower orchard. By summer there will be an orchard site plan for your touring pleasure. Please come visit the Cascabel Community Orchards—if your timing is just right, there may even be some fruit to eat.



Michael Puttonen



Michael Puttonen

Cascabel Community Garden

“WOW,” IS ONE OF THE FIRST WORDS HEARD from the mouths of garden visitors. The abundant lettuces are nearly gone with the early advent of hot weather, but you will find spinach, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, peas, fava beans, asparagus, garlic, onions, fennel, wheat and more in various growing stages. The tomatoes and peppers are planted thanks to the addition of a new cold frame in which we planted our own starts. We hope this is a precursor to our goal of a greenhouse. And if you visit, be sure not to miss the expansion of the upper orchard, and the beginning of a medicinal herb garden. You will find us in the garden on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 10:30 putting our hands and hearts to work. Come join in!



Michael Puttonen



Michael Puttonen

Cascabel Community Garden Party

A Tribute to Norman “Mick” Meader and Cascabel Conservation

by Daniel Baker



WE ARE ALL GRIEVING THE LOSS OF OUR FRIEND NORMAN “MICK” MEADER. Mick gave so much to our association, both in his work and in his bequests, that I feel honor-bound and honored to give tribute to his gifts to us and to the land here in the upper portion of the Lower San Pedro River Valley.

On April 1st a lovely, well-attended memorial service was held for Mick at our Cascabel Community Center with Buddhist and Quaker formats. Karen McKelvey read two of her poems at the memorial, and “Desert Mystic” was one that Mick particularly enjoyed. Mick had a visceral love for this land which is evidenced by the site he chose for his and Richard’s ashes, facing the Galiuro Mountains and its majestic escarpment that reflects the magnificent colors of our Cascabel sunsets.

Mick put into practice his love and passion for this land by his conservation work. After his retirement from the UA geology department he became wedded to working for the conservation of this valley. For years he routinely donated forty hours and more per week of skilled labor. The SunZia powerline proposal was his largest project, but there were always a dozen other conservation issues that he would report on in his conservation committee summaries at seasonal members’ meeting.

Mick became CCA’s co-president as well as chairperson of the conservation program and was our face to many people and groups in southern Arizona. His gentle manner, incredible generosity, passion, hard work and competence were a great tribute to our association and to its founding values and practices. Mick was quick to give credit for those values to Jim Corbett, a principal founder and guiding light of our association. Mick shared with Jim a humble demeanor and yet tenacious effort on behalf of strongly held beliefs, both demonstrating the difficult blend of being at once both a gentle and strong person. Beyond character, they also shared a similar dedication and approach to conservation.

Conservation best describes the originating purpose of our association, as Mary Lou Gonzales, widow of our first benefactor Francis Leitner, readily agreed. Both Jim and Mick understood that—whether it was a militia group firing range or an infrastructure corridor like SunZia—these proposals would critically fragment and degrade these wildlands and the human community as well. Last year a Land Trust Alliance staffer led a CCA organizational review and asked our well-attended meeting what made this wonderful community so unique. The concluding answer was that, beyond the great people, it was uniquely the surrounding wildlands. Our hermitage program gives tribute to the spiritual connection we feel for this land. The wildlands are why people live here and love this place, and the numerous conservation projects here in the valley mean little without that context.

DESERT MYSTIC

*If you find me weeping
do not be alarmed
or sorrowful*

*I am the yucca
bowed down
with the full weight
of flowering*

—Karen McKelvey



These are indeed unique wildlands worthy of conservation: a last-of-its-kind wild desert river, extensive rare mesquite bosques, a major western migratory bird corridor, millennia of archaeological treasures, and four major ecoregions coming together. What makes it *feel* different is the variety and expansiveness of the wildlands. Wildlands are areas inclusive of humans but not dominated by their artifacts and still exhibiting healthy ecological processes, the main metrics being biodiversity and connectivity. This southeast corner of Arizona partakes of the richest biodiversity in the desert southwest. As for connectivity, one can walk eastward from the Tucson foothills to Safford's outskirts and northward from I-10 to the San Carlos reservoir without crossing a paved throughway or hardly any barrier beyond a cattle fence. This huge area encompasses seven northern Sky Islands of the Madrean Archipelago with the wild San Pedro River running through it.

Within this huge wildland circle, Cascabel, small as it is, is probably the largest community. People who actually live locally have a large voice in the ongoing threats to this apparent "empty space." Despite our size, our association has had an outsized impact on conservation in the area. Both Jim and Mick followed the practice of magnifying our voice by being as inclusive as possible with local supporters, and as collaborative as possible with external ones. The demarcation line for our association is expressed in our mission: "the health, stability and diversity of the whole community, including its earth, waters, plants, and animals."

Clearly, not everyone considers the health of wildlands in their deliberations. Despite working tirelessly and valiantly to be inclusive of all viewpoints and interests in the valley on the SunZia proposal, Mick ran up against the limits of inclusiveness: not all agree to be inclusive of the land's voice in their deliberations.

This time is a trial for our valley and association. SunZia looms, whatever its outcome may be, along with several other significant concerns. Political winds are blowing strongly against conservation efforts. And Mick's passing leaves a



huge vacuum in our conservation capacity. Sorrow is a part of life to be reckoned with, but so are joy and hope. Another trait that Mick and Jim shared was optimism and tenacity in the face of incredible odds—because they believed in what they struggled for. This Spring the yuccas are indeed heavy with blossoms.

Mick and Jim shared another practice, and that is volunteerism. Both gave incredible energy and time to this association and neither asked a pittance of remuneration. That ethic permeates CCA which remains an all-volunteer group, including those few receiving a small stipend. However, several of our volunteers are struggling to fulfill subsistence needs and unable to volunteer as much as they may wish. Others who might be interns or substantial contributors to conservation projects pass us by because even the rudiments of support are unavailable. Despite substantial conservation achievements, we also remain unable to compete for sizeable grants due to our lack of fiscal security.

When Jim saw the militia group threat he became a fundraiser of sorts looking for a benefactor to help conserve threatened neighboring land, which he found in Francis and MaryLou. When Mick realized his cancer was terminal he did everything he could by giving his land, cottage, and a large bequest to CCA for its ongoing conservation efforts. CCA's conservation program is piggy-backing on his donation by establishing a "board-created endowment" to continue and increase CCA's conservation capacity in these challenging times. Unlike "full endowments", this "quasi-endowment" will serve as cash reserves and conservation working funds.

Mick Meader Conservation Endowment Fund

...continuing and expanding the conservation capacity of the Cascabel Conservation Association

- ▶ This is a "board-created endowment" (not a "full endowment") which grows by donations.
- ▶ A percentage of the fund (e.g. 50%) will serve as cash reserves for the stability of the association.
- ▶ The remainder of the fund will be used to assist volunteers in conservation projects.
- ▶ An endowment committee is being established to receive, manage, and disperse funds.

A CHALLENGE GRANT OF \$50,000 *has been offered to help establish the fund.*

- ▶ To contribute, please check the endowment and bequests box on the enclosed form.
- ▶ Only monetary donations will be counted as matching funds against the challenge grant.
- ▶ Donations already given on Mick's behalf will be counted as matching funds.
- ▶ Matching funds will be accepted until the end of the 2017 calendar year.

Invitation to Support the CCA



CASCABEL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION IS flourishing due to generous donations and tireless efforts of talented volunteers. However, serious threats to the San Pedro Valley continue to come from many fronts, and the current political and conservation climate in our country poses many barriers to our efforts.

CCA remains dedicated to our unique vision for the Middle San Pedro River Valley. Realizing this vision comes with mounting costs. We remain an organization supported almost entirely by donations and volunteers.

We appeal to you to join us in our efforts by helping us reach our matching grant goal, by becoming a member and volunteering your time and talent, or both.

Please see the enclosed materials for more information, and **add your voice to our vision!**

To learn more about our work in the Middle San Pedro River Valley, please check out our website at www.cascabelconservation.org

Baicatcan Land & Campground

CCA IS VERY EXCITED about the progress being made toward shared ownership of Baicatcan by CCA and ASW. Garden volunteers continue to care for the campground and upgrades are in the works for the composting toilet and shower system. A number of new trees have been planted and an ambitious plan has been set in motion to divest ourselves of the Avion travel trailer and provide a permanent home in the campground for Mick Meader's cottage.



The campground is available to CCA members and their sponsored guests. Amenities include a ramada, cooking supplies, propane stoves, composting toilet, outdoor solar shower, fire pit, and a nearby community garden which you are welcome to participate in. Visit www.cascabelconservation.org and go to "Baicatcan/Garden" and "Guest Info" to learn more.

Hermitage Program

THE CCA HERMITAGE program continues to prosper under the new leadership of Susan Tolefson. The new Corbett Center continues to garner great reviews, and the Gonzales-Leitner strawbale hermitage remains in use. We look forward to upgrading and expanding the hermitage program soon. Please let us know if you would like to schedule a sojourn in our wildlands.



David & Pearl's Pacific Sailing Trip



"Even though we're in probably the most exotic anchorage of the South Pacific, our hearts and thoughts continue to be in Cascabel and the activities of CCA. We miss the place and all of you. We're deeply grateful to those of you who continue in our absence."

Pearl Mast sent this message from: Lat -10.465153 Lon -138.667631



Three Links Crossing, Spring 2014

University of Arizona Students Consider Sustainability in Cascabel

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, CHRIS EASTOE AND JAMES CALLEGARY have led a one-day field trip on behalf of CCA for 20 students from Professor Joan Curry's undergraduate Environmental Science course. We examine the idea of sustainability from various points of view: sustainability of the riparian environment at Three Links Ranch, sustainable domestic life at the Omick-Mast residence, and sustainable cattle ranching at the Saguaro Juniper Ranch. Most of the students come from urban areas of the United States, but we have also introduced Cascabel to visitors from China, Zambia, Iran, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, and more. Most of our visitors seem to regard the riparian forest at Three Links Ranch, David Omick's composting toilet, and Pearl Mast's mesquite cookies as the memorable highlights of the outing—that is, if you don't count the lack of cell-phone service!

Conservation Committee Report

FOR MANY YEARS, MICK MEADER PLAYED AN integral role in the conservation efforts of CCA. Mick was the ultimate researcher, who could see challenges well before others. With his bequest and the responding challenge grant, the Conservation Committee will create a subcommittee to manage the funds and appropriate stipends for volunteers.



Alex Binford-Walsh

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, CCA HAS BEEN working with the Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Saguaro National Park in using motion-sensor trail cameras to collect data on wildlife in our area. With their help, we continue trying to improve the Wildlife Monitoring Project and the quality of data we collect.

The following is a list of the animals we have recorded, in the order of most-photographed to least-photographed:

- 1 white-tailed deer
- 2 javelina
- 3 grey fox
- 4 coyote
- 5 mule deer
- 6 white-nosed coati
- 7 black-tailed jackrabbit
- 8 bobcat
- 9 human
- 10 cow
- 11 raccoon
- 12 desert cottontail
- 13 roadrunner
- 14 turkey
- 15 dog
- 16 hooded skunk
- 17 striped skunk
- 18 opossum
- 19 rock squirrel
- 20 mountain lion
- 21 pig
- 22 cat



Alex Binford-Walsh

- 23 black bear
- 24 spotted skunk
- 25 ringtail
- 26 badger

IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED VILLAGES AT Vigneto development in Benson, CCA joined other organizations in a suit to insure that the Army Corps of Engineers consults with the US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding environmental impacts. (See www.vignetoaz.com to learn about the development.)



Alex Binford-Walsh

WE ARE FOLLOWING A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL Environmental Assessment initiated by Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in 2015. Our concerns are continued helicopter activity near cultural sites and working ranch operations.

CCA HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING WITH OTHER natural resource conservation organizations, particularly the Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance. We work with the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative in developing a long-term conservation plan for the binational sky island region and continue our support of the Cascabel Working Group, in the 8th year of its opposition to the SunZia Transmission Project.

Lots is happening with SunZia!
See www.cascabelworkinggroup.org for the latest.



Alex Binford-Walsh



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JOIN THE CCA TODAY!

MISSION

The Cascabel Conservation Association is dedicated to the collaborative stewardship of the Middle San Pedro River watershed in a way that promotes the health, stability and diversity of the whole community, including its earth, waters, plants, and animals. We strive to integrate the needs of the land with the needs of a sustainable human community through educational, economic, agricultural, contemplative and other conservation related endeavors.

COMMUNITY

CCA opens itself to the community. It has a friendly and supportive relation with the Saguaro-Juniper Corporation, sharing a common Covenant, adjacent land and similar purposes. It also partners with The Nature Conservancy, the Cascabel Community Center, the Cascabel Working Group, BorderLinks, and other

organizations, churches and neighbors. Furthermore, it is open to you. CCA operates in a consensual manner and your voice and participation are welcome.

FINANCES

In keeping with its integrative approach to the human and natural community, CCA seeks simplicity, equality and justice in financial matters, offering all services at no fee or minimal cost. CCA is primarily run by volunteers, and staff members work for minimal or no compensation. Nonetheless, financial support is required for expenses (such as office, infrastructure, insurance, vehicles, etc.) and the sustainability of our programs.

We would like to invite your participation in CCA by becoming a member (no fee required), or by donation (no membership required), or both. Donations are tax deductible.



Cut here and return the form below.

CCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I, _____ [PRINT], wish to become a member of the **Cascabel Conservation Association: Supporting Conservation, Community and Contemplation in the Middle San Pedro River Valley**. I understand that I will receive announcements of CCA meetings, minutes, mailings and invitations to participate in events and decision making. (If you were a CHA member, you are already a CCA member)

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT: I support the mission of the Cascabel Conservation Association (see reverse side), am in accord with its efforts to function in a consensual manner, and agree to abide by applicable covenants and/or conservation easements when on CCA lands.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CCA DONATIONS

- I would like to make a monetary donation to CCA. *(Please specify if you want your donation to go to the General, Hermitage, Garden, or Education Fund).*
- I would like to make a donation or bequest to the **MICK MEADER CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT** fund.
- I would like to help at CCA work parties. Please contact me when they are scheduled.

Please make checks payable to CCA and return to: CCA, 6146 N Canyon Rd, Cascabel AZ 85602