

**CCA Winter 2022 Meeting
Hermitage Committee Report
January 15, 2022**

Sojourner Reflection

November 2021

"I am urban by nurture, but wilderness by nature. As I have come to learn this, I seek ever more places of solitude, the wild, and the feeling of timelessness. To witness and appreciate the simplest of things – a tarantula crossing the wash, a leaf being taken by water's current. All provide a sense of connectedness – a better holistic view and perspective, in contrast to ever more reductionist approaches society takes. The Corbett Center provides inspiration and subtle education of ways that sojourners may reduce their environmental impact, as to best leave it as we found it."

Monthly Committee Meeting

The Hermitage Committee meets monthly on the *third Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.* All are welcome to attend. Contact Katie Talbott at kt.talbott@gmail.com for info.

Sabbatical Gatherings

Second Saturday of the month, time depending on the weather and planned activity.

We host a monthly gathering on the land to be in community with each other and the land in attentive stillness, thoughtful conversation, and appreciative exploration. We begin by reading the SJ/CCA land covenant and Bill of Rights together to remind ourselves of our commitment to stewardship. Each month we do something different depending on who attends. This fall we visited the planned Caravan site, Pearl & David's old homestead, hiked up Windmill Wash to explore plant life, hiked up to where Mick Meader's ashes are buried, explored the old tent ramada site, and hosted a workday to clear the straw bale hermitage of old furnishings and ceiling material.

Committee Membership

The current membership of the hermitage committee includes Susan Tollefson and Katie Talbott (co-chairs), Vera Moritz, Karen McKelvey, and Andrew Volz. Lisa Vogel and Gail Loveland have been regular participants as guests.

Corbett Center Hermitage

Since our late general meeting in September, we have hosted the following number of sojourners:

Individuals: 9

Total number of days: 39

Groups:

Oasis (10 people)

Goatwalking Sojourners (2 groups)

Upcoming

February

Individuals: 3

Total number of days: 18

Groups: Liverman Scholars

Total number of days: 1

March

Individuals: 5

Total number of days: 17

Groups: YAVs (6 people)

Total number of days: 6

Caravan Hermitage

The Caravan Hermitage is under construction, and David and Erik are making excellent progress. Supply chain issues have affected material prices in the upward direction, but Erik wisely procured some materials last spring before prices increased, and we are watching our budget closely. We recently learned that the windows have been delayed until mid-March at least, so we have decided to delay placing the Caravan on site until the fall. The plan right now is to finish the Caravan this spring, locate it in an attractive place easily accessible to Erik's shop and have some trial sojourner stays there over the late spring to work out any design details or usage issues. Any needed repairs will be easier to do close to Erik's shop, with less wear and tear to our hermitage land. We will place the Caravan onsite in early fall to be available for the fall season. If you are interested in a trial stay at the Caravan this spring to help us test it out, contact Katie Talbott at kt.talbott@gmail.com.

Fundraiser for a new vehicle

The hermitage needs a "new" used 4-wheel drive truck, as the 89 Toyota truck, donated by Daniel Baker, has been in use since the inception of the program and is nearing retirement. We have currently raised \$5094.31, along with an anonymous matching grant up to \$10,000. We are now in search of the appropriate truck, and we thank all who have supported us in this effort.

Straw Bale Legacy Site

We continue to work on creating a legacy site for walking pilgrims at the Straw Bale Hermitage. We held a successful work party on Saturday, January 8, in which we cleared out the interior space, (including the false ceiling and insulation), restored the path to the composting toilet, and generally cleared away debris from the exterior. Andrew Volz is creating a "time capsule" that will be placed in the hermitage in a weather/rodent/insect proof container, and that will serve as a repository for historical, educational, and inspirational materials. On **Saturday, April 9th** we will host a special day of commemoration at the Straw Bale, to honor this place that has sheltered so many sojourners-- to say goodbye to what it has been in the past and open the door to what it may be in the future. We are still in the process of planning this event but **Save the Date** and **Stay Tuned!**

Road to Corbett Center

The road to the Corbett Center was badly eroded again during Monsoon season at the same place that was eroded and fixed last year (at the corner near Dave Shreeve's) and was impassable to vehicles. We decided to repair the road, and Susan organized the community to hire Lowell Erikson and a skid steer tractor to complete a number of community road maintenance projects at once. This cost sharing significantly reduced the price for all involved.

Collaboration with Saguaro-Juniper Transition Planning

The hermitage committee is continuing to participate in Saguaro-Juniper transition planning and fully supports Saguaro-Juniper's holding of the grazing leases that surround the hermitage land. These grazing leases are an integral part of the wildland desert experience that the hermitage offers to sojourners.