



Cascabel Conservation Association
Supporting Conservation, Community, and Contemplation in the Middle San Pedro Valley
2023 CCA NEWSLETTER



Matt Clark

Volunteers Kai and Joe with some of the old fencing they helped remove.

Fence Removal in Hot Springs–Paige Canyon

by Alex Binford-Walsh

THE CASCABEL CONSERVATION Association has been working with Saguaro National Park, AZ Game & Fish Department, The Nature Conservancy, Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Mule Deer Foundation and others on a local fence improvement project in the Hot Springs–Paige Canyon area. This project came about through the Lower San Pedro Collaborative, of which CCA is a member. The goal of the project is to remove unnecessary fences in the corridor while also keeping cattle out of residential areas.

Beginning in the summer of 2021, we started by getting landowner permission to map most of the fences in the corridor (with significant on-the-ground help from Saguaro National Park). That winter, we convened a community workshop of landowners in the area to discuss the benefits of fence removal and to discuss the project in general.



Matt Clark

Hot lunch after a chilly morning of work in the rain.

Our first fence removal day was on a cold rainy day in December 2022, when around 15 volunteers and agency/organization employees removed nearly a mile of old barbed wire fence in the bosque near Hot Springs Canyon. The fence team continues to meet to develop further plans moving forward.

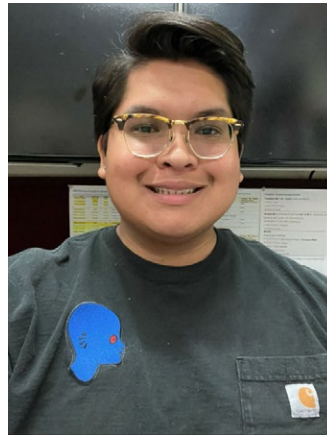
Hermitage Program News

by Susan Tollefson

THE HISTORY OF THE Hermitage Program reflects many people responding to the times with a desire to live in a way that promotes *the health, stability, and diversity of the whole community*. In light of the violence, destruction and divisiveness happening in all parts of the world and in all forms, it seems important to remember our roots, reevaluate, and renew our commitment to why and how we steward this particular piece of southwest desert wildlands.

A focus of the Hermitage Program in response to current national and global challenges is to invite and welcome more small groups of people to sojourn together at the Corbett Retreat and Research Center. Reflecting, sharing, and learning together as a small community within a simple, natural environment can inspire and guide us in discovering how to live with each other and with the natural world more harmoniously.

One step we have taken is to collaborate with the RISE Program (Resilient Internships and Student Experiences) of the University of Arizona which has selected the Hermitage Program to host two interns for the upcoming fall and spring semesters. Brady Monteith, a Nutrition & Food Systems Major, and Ivan Bennett, double majoring in American Indian Studies and Environmental Studies will be collaborating with us over the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters. Brady and Ivan are tasked with identifying and meeting with student organizations and faculty at the University who may be interested in small group sojourns at the Corbett Retreat and Research Center. Their internship began Labor Day weekend by camping at the Corbett Center, walking the land



Ivan Bennett



Brady Monteith

and learning about its history with Daniel Baker and Tom Talbott, visiting both hermitages, spending time at Baicatcan and the Community Garden, and meeting over a potluck lunch with community members interested in supporting them during their internship.

We are excited about this opportunity to work with and learn from these students who along with us, see the value in and urgent need for small groups of people to sojourn together in their search to promote the *health, stability, and diversity of the whole community*. Inspiration and creative decision making can happen in the openness that the natural world offers people to reconnect with themselves, each other, the land, and all life upon it.

If you or someone you know is interested in hosting a small group for reflection and nourishment, please reach out to Susan Tollefson at smtollefson51@gmail.com.



Pearl Mast

Former Board Members Return

WELCOME BACK TO CASCABEL, Brandon and Jodi Wert! Brandon is a former Member of our Board.

Brandon and Jodi harvesting some of the bumper crop of chiles in the Community Garden

Cascabel Conservation Association
SunZia Legal Fund
6146 N Canyon Rd
Cascabel AZ 85602

HELP FIGHT SUNZIA

THIS MASSIVE NEW MULTI-LINE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR is foolishly slated to run through 33 miles of the most remote and ecologically sensitive portion of the San Pedro River ecosystem, causing irreversible damage. Alternative routes via existing corridors have been available all along. A volunteer conservationist and the Tully Bailey law firm have taken the Arizona Corporation Commission to Superior Court, demanding a reversal of this decision. **We need your support to continue the fight**, to tell Pattern Energy that their profit is not to be gained at the expense of our last remaining wildlands.

PLEASE help fund this legal effort by going online to protectthesanpedro.net or by sending a check to the mailing address above, made out to the **CCA-SUNZIA LEGAL FUND**.*

*Cascabel Conservation Association (CCA) is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



SunZia Update

A MAJOR FOCUS OF the Conservation Program this year has been fighting to keep the San Pedro Valley from becoming a mega electric transmission corridor. We are supporting a colleague of the Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance in his court challenge of the Arizona permit for the SunZia Transmission Project. We need your help! Please share the info on your social media.

protectthesanpedro.net



Coatis at dawn

Wildlife Pictures

VOLUNTEER JOE PAGE keeps eight CCA cameras in various locations around Cascabel, recording the passing wildlife, and also keeping track of invasive species like feral pigs.



A feral pig roams the San Pedro River.



Pearl Mast

Wedding in the Garden

WE WERE THRILLED to host the Halloween wedding of our Cascabel herpetologists in our Community Garden. Congratulations to Lexi and Gene!

INVITATION TO SUPPORT CCA

CASCABEL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION is flourishing due to generous donations and the 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 to promote the health, stability, and diversity of the whole community. Realizing this vision comes with mounting costs. We remain an organization supported almost entirely by donations and volunteers; this support ensures the sustainability of our programs.

We appeal to you to join us in our efforts by making a monetary donation, becoming a member, or volunteering your time and talent. CCA operates in a consensual manner and your participation is welcome. To learn more about our work visit our website at cascabelconservation.org.

Please add your voice to our vision and fill out the insert provided!

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTION (*Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD*) from your IRA if the distribution is paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization? QCDs can be made electronically, directly to the charity, or by check payable to the charity. For more information, check the IRS website and with your IRA trustee. Thank you for considering CCA as the recipient of your QCD.

CCA Newsletter Contributing Editors: Susan Tollefson, Alex Binford-Walsh, Pearl Mast, Katie Sharer
Graphic Design: Michael Puttonen



6146 N. Canyon Road, Cascabel, Arizona 85602

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 Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, Cascabel Community Center, the Cascabel Working Group, and is a member organization of the Lower San Pedro Collaborative, the Land Trust Alliance, and the Coalition for Sonoran

Desert Protection. 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 run primarily 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 above), 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, Conservation, Garden, or Education Programs, or to the Mick Meader Conservation Endowment).*
- 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 North Canyon Road, Cascabel AZ 85602