

Hermitage Program Report CCA Meeting – September 9, 2023

Sojourner Reflection: March 2023

"I am told I am the first of the official sojourners at the newly arrived and fabulously designed and built Caravan hermitage. I thoroughly enjoyed my 2-day/2-night stay. The theme of my sojourn here has to be "change." Change from winter to spring, and for me, a change in living with a new condition. All is well through living in the present and here, up this remote wash, all actions, desires, and needs are in the present ... and passing like the clouds above. The weather keeps changing, by the hour today. Cloudy, then windy, then breezy, then cold, then sunny, then warm, then repeat. The same with the bird life, which over time has shown itself to be very diverse (18 species). Only patience, time, and present awareness are all that's needed. All in abundance here at the Caravan.

Change and adaption – moving with the winds of time. The brilliant stars last night, the earth's bright green and wildflower display this morning, the bounty of tracks in the desert washes, the rattle of a diamondback on a warm west-facing slope, the calls of Ash-throated flycatchers and Black-throated sparrows come and go, the over-flight of a Red-tailed hawk. The seasons change and life changes with it. The Caravan Hermitage seems to provide the perfect solitude to reflect on it all."

Sojourners:

Since our last meeting in March, we have had:

- 6 Sojourners; Total of 20 days

Field Trips/Workshops:

- *Field Trip with Naturalist Ralph Waldt up Hot Springs Wash - 10 participants*
- *(3rd) Workshop w/ herpetologist Lexi Williams*
"Living Peacefully with the Malignant Rattlesnake" - 6 participants
- *Overnight camping workshop w/ herpetologist Lexi Williams: Night Life: Walking with Nocturnal Herpetofauna" - 6 participants*

Sabbatical Gatherings:

Held 2nd Saturday of each month (September will be 16th due to CCA meeting) where we meet someone on the land and spend about 2 hours together.

Sojourning New:

We continue to publish the monthly, one-page Sojourning News about the upcoming events of the Hermitage Program and photographs of the changing seasons.

University of Arizona RISE (Resilient Internships & Student Experiences) Interns

Thanks to the research work of Tom Talbott and Andrew Voltz focused on possible avenues for funding university students to spend time in Cascabel and contribute to our CCA programs, the Hermitage Program submitted an application for RISE interns and was awarded two interns for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters.

The interns, Brady Monteith (Food Systems major) and Ivan Bennett (American Indian Studies & Environmental Science) spent Labor Day Weekend camping at the Corbett Retreat & Research Center to get to know the land, the Hermitage Program and some of the community members. Thanks to Karen McKelvey, Tom Talbott, Daniel Baker, Gail Loveland, Annie Wilkenson, Marissa Katz, and Barbara Clark, it was a successful weekend for all.

The interns will be tasked with identifying and connecting with small groups/faculty on campus and inviting them to consider small group sojourns at the Corbett Center.