



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sedona - Verde Valley News

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September - November 2009

Visit our Web Site for more information! <http://www.arizona.sierraclub.org/sedona>

What?

Development in the Verde Valley?

“Arizonans recognize that good planning at the local, regional, and state levels can return higher economic, social and environmental dividends. Arizonans have a responsibility to participate in this state’s governance and planning. Growing Smarter is about creating and sustaining healthy landscapes, livable communities and vibrant economies.”

From Growing Smarter Guiding Principles (Arizona)

As stated above we should grow smarter and use the existing well-thought out Community Plans endorsed by voters. No further changes should be made in these Plans without voter approval. Such “picking apart” of Community Plans destroy their integrity.

Do we want to become the area which tourists avoid and people do not want to live in, because of the traffic and reduced quality of life here? Have you read the book *Lost Landscapes and failed Economies* by T.M. Power which suggests some ‘growth’ is good, but further growth actually becomes a dis-incentive for an economy like our region?

With the Cottonwood proposed annexation of the 10-square miles along 89A from Cornville to Page Springs, Sedona near growth capacity, and the economic downturn just starting to peek upward, this is a good time to re-think our growth paradigm in the region. We can foster sustainable reasonable growth that is good for all , or we can destroy ourselves.

Persons interested in helping formulate alternative ideas and initiatives for growth, please contact marlenerayner@yahoo.com.

October for 89A Lights?

The 89A lighting matrix has still not been announced by ADOT. It is hoped that this delay is due to the required NEPA study and the study of targeted attractive, night-sky compliant sustainable sidewalk or pedestrian alternatives for safety vs. 35 ft high continuous highway lighting under the pretense we are an “urban arterial” (big misnomer here).

SR 89A deserves the same aesthetic considerations given Uptown and SR 179. Sedona Sierra members WILL get an email notice from us when/if further information is available, or the required public meetings are scheduled.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Ciera Crawley, 2009 Red Rock High School graduate, shown with her parents at our Groups’ July 11th Annual Potluck Picnic at Red Rock Crossing State Park. Great food and great company!

We were honored this year to present our first Earth Steward Award to Ciera Crawley! Ciera’s senior project convinced the Red Rock School District to replace use of its styrofoam lunch trays for a more environmentally safe recycled paperboard tray.

We decided to offer this new award to Verde Valley students from K-12 to encourage and reward their new environmental ideas. The awards are small (\$100, a plaque acknowledging the students’ efforts as well as a Sierra student membership). Next year, we hope to give three such awards throughout our Verde Valley Group region.

Parents and teachers can look on our web site (<http://arizona.sierraclub.org/sedona/index.html>) for further information regarding application submission deadlines for projects in progress.



In order to offer these awards we are asking for your generous donations of money or your time to help judge the awards. Our Sierra Group would appreciate any help you can give! Call any of our Group leaders listed on the back page of this newsletter if you wish to help.

Northern Arizona Permaculture Design Course!

<http://www.edenonearthlandscaping.com/PDC.html>

This course is for home owners, renters, gardeners, farmers, ranchers, landscapers, architects, builders, developers, civic planners, educators, environmentalists, students and anyone who wishes to learn how to live sustainably and apply the principles of holistic design to their respective fields.

The 72-hour curriculum will cover Bill Mollison's PERMACULTURE DESIGNERS MANUAL plus more recent material. The course consists of four 3-day weekends held in Flagstaff, Tucson, the Verde Valley & Sedona. The extended weekend format is designed to accommodate local residents' schedules and encourage their participation in this valuable learning experience taught by national and regional experts in permaculture and sustainability.

The course includes classroom instruction, field trips, hands-on activities, required and suggested reading and completion of a permaculture design project. Upon their successful completion, the student will receive Permaculture Design Certification. See the website listed above for details.

Grand Canyon Chapter Sierra Club
Sedona-Verde Valley Group
70 Whitetail Lane
Sedona AZ 86336

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C A L E N D A R

Mark your calendars for the following meetings. All meetings are open to the public, members and potential new members. Notices and descriptions are also on our Group website <http://www.arizona.sierraclub.org/sedona/>. Contact marlenerayner@yahoo.com or 928-203-0340.

Thursday, September 3, 2009

6-8 pm

70-Whitetail Lane Sedona AZ

Regular Executive Committee Meeting. All are welcome.

Thursday, October 8, 2009

6-8 pm

70-Whitetail Lane Sedona AZ

Regular Executive Committee Meeting. All are welcome.

Thursday, November 12, 2009 Free Film

6 pm

At Sedona Public Library. *Lords of Nature* is the story of a science now discovering top carnivores as revitalizing forces of nature and of a society learning tolerance for beasts they once loathed. Can people and predators coexist? Could the survival of wolves and cougar be linked to the survival of birds, butterflies, even wildflowers?

Saturday, December 12, 2009

6-8 pm

70 Whitetail Lane Sedona AZ 86336

Potluck Holiday Appetizer Party for Sierra Members! and Friends

RSVP by December 7th marlenerayner@yahoo.com or call 203-0340

ZERO WASTE IS IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE

Did you know that Yavapai County's Wolf Landfill will be filled way ahead of schedule? Did you know that the county had to negotiate for Forest Service land for expanding that landfill, because we waste so much? Did you realize the landfill is built over an aquifer, which is now contaminated and is becoming a problem for residents in the area? Is this what we want our National Forests to become - landfills??

It is a fact that at least 85-90% of our 'waste' can be recycled. Residents have an obligation to recycle all they can to reduce the waste at landfills, the waste of valuable energy and the loss of natural resources.

We should all carry reusable bags to the store so we do not use either paper or plastic bags, which clutter our fragile landscape.

Recycling rates are low: Sedona 12-15% and 5-10% in Cottonwood. If we insisted that manufacturers take responsibility for the end-life of their products, more product redesign would occur. Manufacturers would have to resolve how to dispose of appliances and electronics in a sustainable manner vs. filling up the landfills. Fees assessed on manufacturers or products could be used to fund a much needed Resource Recovery Park in this region. If you are interested in moving waste issues forward in this Verde Valley region, contact marlenerayner@yahoo.com.

Remember the 7Rs:

Reduce (source reduction) or **Refuse** to buy

Redesign (to make products easily recyclable)

Repair (fix, especially redesigned products)

Reuse (durable vs. single use i.e., cameras, napkins)

Recycle (everything else)

Regulate (to make redesign happen, if needed)

Please Help us Go Greener and Save Expenses!!

Signup for the Electronic version of this newsletter by emailing John Sheffield at jsheffield40@msn.com to request the PDF or HTML version and stop the delivery of paper. You can also signup for the Electronic version of the Grand Canyon Echo by going to <http://www.arizona.sierraclub.org/>.

Your Sierra Club Sedona-Verde Valley Leadership

If you would like to volunteer, have any questions, advice or meeting suggestions, please call us:

Chair/ Newsletter Editor	Marlene Rayner (Sedona)	928-203-0340
Vice Chair	Bob Donahue (Cornville)	928-639-1885
Conservation Chair	Brian Myers	928-204-1703
Treasurer	Bertha Cook	928-634-1115
Secretary	Nancy Baer	928-203-0340
Outings Chair	Nancy Reynolds	928-649-3065
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