



Rio Verde Horsmen's Association



Spring Newsletter

Spring is Here!

Welcome to springtime in our special Rio Verde Foothills community. In this Newsletter:

- **Enjoy the Outdoors**

Now is the time to take in the beauty of our desert by visiting our local parks. Jenny has shared some of the fun things happening at the Sonoran Preserve.

- **Spring Cleaning**

After the rain it is a perfect time to clear brush and weeds from your property to prepare for the summer fire season. More from Deb on the Firewise program.

- **Horses in Music**

Lori has some horse-themed music suggestions for the lazy days in the sun.

- **Fall Dance Recap**

Carmela shares some great photos from the fun evening at the the RVHA Fall Dance. Keep an eye out for more fun events.

See you on the Trails!

Kim



Do your part for our community to help eradicate invasive plants and weeds.

Contact Rio Verde Fire Department for a free inspection and advice on how to make your property a defensible space.

Call 480.415.8897 or email Shawn.Gilleland@GMR.net.



Globe Chamomile/ Stink Net

Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*) is a relatively recent and problematic arrival to Arizona. This plant is spreading rapidly in both urban and wild areas and can quickly dominate a landscape. Plants grow in dense clusters and easily displace native vegetation. During growth the plants can cause severe allergic reactions, both dermal and respiratory. Infestations spread rapidly along roadways and open fields in residential areas. Dried dense patches are highly flammable.



What's New at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Jenny Powers

Tour de Scottsdale - April 12

This premier bicycling event is sponsored by and benefits the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The start and finish will be at WestWorld in Scottsdale and the 62-mile route travels north from WestWorld at Pima Road to Dynamite, continuing east on Rio Verde Drive to Forest Road, McDowell Mountain Road and through Fountain Hills then returning to WestWorld. The ride begins at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 12 and continues until approximately 2:00 p.m. There will be traffic safety measures in place throughout the ride.



Reminder About E-bikes

E-bikes remain prohibited in the Preserve unless the user is covered by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Many users have obtained a voluntary accommodation sticker from the City by calling (480) 312-4444.

Below is a list of where e-bikes are permitted.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Dr. Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 (602) 506-2930 ext. 3 - Class 1 and Class 2

Cave Creek Regional Park 37019 N. Lava Lane Cave Creek, AZ 85331 (602) 506-2930 ext. 8 - Class 1 and Class 2 - all e-bikes are allowed on motorized trails and roads (everywhere except in the Wilderness areas) Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt

Tonto National Forest - all e-bikes are allowed on motorized trails and roads (everywhere except in the Wilderness areas)

Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt-Class 1 and 2
City of Phoenix-Phoenix Mountains Preserve and Phoenix Sonoran Preserve trails - except NO bikes on the Camelback Mountain trails (Echo and Cholla), the Piestewa Peak Summit Trail and the North Mountain Tower Road. No Class 3 E-Bikes.



What's New at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

continued

Brown's Ranch Interpretive Trail is Now Open

Hikers walking the Corral Trail in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve have for years wondered about the scattershot of crumbling concrete and contorted metal strewn about the site of the old Browns Ranch. The mysteries have been solved.

The new Browns Ranch Interpretive Trail reveals the details.

Opened in October 2024, the easy 0.3-mile loop trail features 20 educational displays that identify the rusty parts and faint remains of a working cattle operation that operated from 1916 through the 1970s. It also tells the story of the ranch founders — the Brown family — as well as the Native peoples, evolving technologies, military presence and personalities that shaped the area from prehistory through the Old West and into the present.

Beautifully illustrated signs address topics like how ranchers found water, what life was like as a hired hand and inventive construction and manufacturing methods used in the area.

First timers and regular preserve visitors alike will appreciate how the embellished trail enriches the hiking experience.

The site is reached by hiking 1.4 miles north on Browns Ranch Road from the Browns Ranch Trailhead.



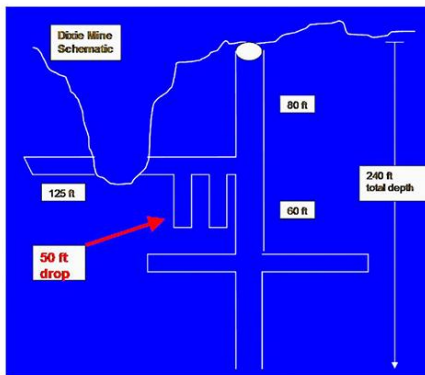


What's New at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

continued

Fun Facts – Dixie Mine

The Dixie Mine, located in the interior of the McDowells, is abandoned except for desert denizens such as bats. Entry is blocked by metal gates and screens. The interior is hazardous. The main shaft has a depth of 240 feet with several feet of water at its bottom. In addition, there are two 50-foot drops along a tunnel from the ground level entry to the main shaft. Potential cave ins, noxious gases, and shaft falls remain threats. There are over 100,000 abandoned mines in Arizona, of which only 19,000 have been identified and even fewer secured.



Vehicle Break-ins

Luckily, we have not had many vehicle break-ins lately, but the increased traffic of winter visitors can provide opportunities for thieves at the trail head parking lots. Please remember to leave your valuables at home when visiting the Preserve. Please continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Scottsdale Police Department. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies please call 480-312-5000 for Scottsdale Police Dispatch. Your safety is the primary goal, but if you can safely take photos or make mental notes of the suspicious activity, please do so. Police dispatch will ask you questions such as height and weight, ethnicity, color of clothing, direction of travel, vehicle description, license plate number, etc.



Be Prepared - FIREWISE

HELLO RVHA FAMILY!

We hope that each of you had a safe and wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2025! Deb Davis Catone

We want to give a shout out and an update from all of us here at Firewise.

Previous to the last couple weeks of wonderful rainy days, we have been in an ongoing extremely dry weather pattern which has unfortunately put us in the crosshairs yet again. Unfortunately, this means that it appears that Fire Season is now a year-round event.

With that being said, we stepped up our calls for pre-emptive, **Free Firewise inspections** through our friends and awesome co-partners at **Rural Metro**. And boy oh boy, did our community step up to the challenge! We received more requests in one week than we had in 3 months! And we LOVE IT! You guys are rock stars! I am so proud of our board, our community and our firefighters. Team work truly does make the dream work.

We were contacted by **Fox Channel 10 News** for a feature report on our program and our community. It was filmed Friday, February 28th, and aired at 9:00 and 10:00 pm. Fox 10 reporter Nicole Krasean, would like to be involved in support of our program and community by including regular on-air reports and a few ride along trips with Rural Metro while doing assessments. They want to learn first-hand what our community faces i.e. the large geographical area terrain and land mass in comparison to smaller sized, HOA sponsored, single-family homes and managed communities.

Our community is so unique both geographically and amenity-wise; that our demographics and proven program, can be used to better explain Firewise to other like communities around us.



Be Prepared - FIREWISE

continued

WEBSITE INFORMATION

We are working on streamlining our reporting process as well as the ability to request Firewise inspections via our website. We are in transition with Frank Turbin, at 123computerhelp.com.

A special thank you to John and Doreen Hornewer, for investing in our program and our community! Rio Verde Water has sponsored our website construction; merge and data management!

Sponsorship and donations are our life blood. We are a total "Not-For-Profit" working on our non-profit status. We also could use some help with future data input, legal advice, brainstorming community engagement ideas, etc.

We are looking into the feasibility of having "Dumpster Days" at Rural Metro. This would enable our community to have a place to dispose of yard waste only. We would love your pros and cons feedback on this. It is an expensive proposition but could be worth it.

Please, stay vigilant and Firewise safe. NOW is the time to start "weeding" out the globe chamomile and shoring up our properties. Make sure your trailer chains aren't dragging, you have your "Go Bags" updated now. Remember, we are here to help, offer suggestions and offer free inspections.

Thank you for all your support!
Deb - Debbiekcatone@gmail.com



RVHA Roadside Cleanup

Thank you to the huge group that showed up on December 28th for the RVHA Roadside Cleanup! We are committed to keeping our special community clean and beautiful. Please join us for the next Roadside Cleanup coming soon!

Horses in Song

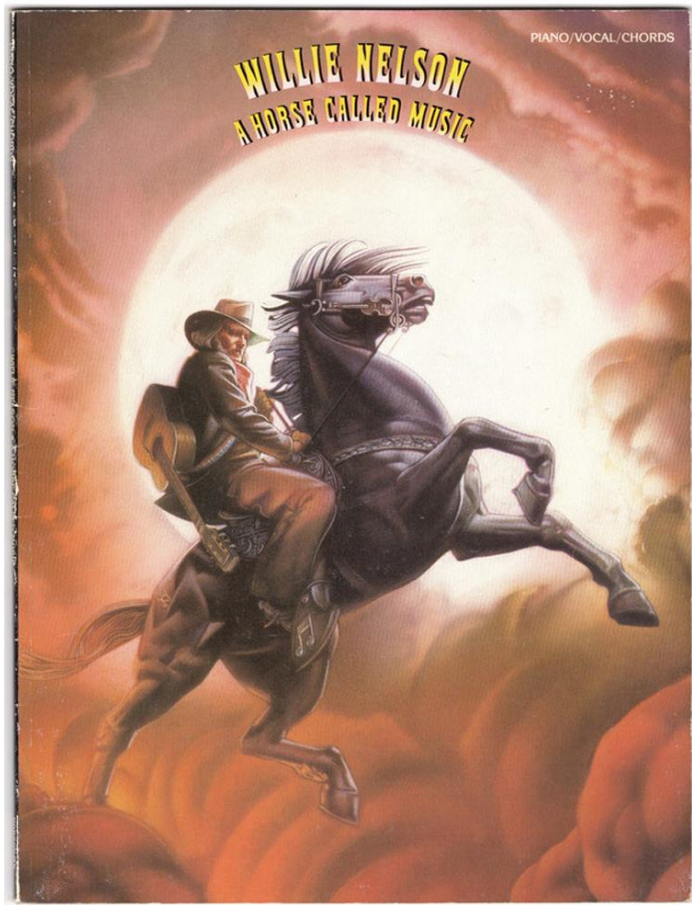
by Lori Bridwell

Horses in SONG:

Horses are such familiar companions and universal symbols, appealing to humans on so many levels, it is little surprise they've found their way into so many iconic songs of the twentieth century. Here is a sampling of songs about horses, with a few notes about the most memorable.

TENNESSEE STUD; written by Jimmy Driftwood, covered by Eddie Arnold, Johnny Cash, Doc Watson and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, the Osborne Brothers and many more. The ballad tells of a dual human/equine romance. A lover escapes from Arkansas, fleeing his sweetheart's angry family.

WILD HORSES; The Rolling Stones. Conflicting legends about what Marianne Faithful said to her husband "Wild horses can't drag me away" was something she murmured to Mick when she regained consciousness after a drug-induced coma.



HORSES LATITUDES; Jim Morrison with the Doors wrote this song in high school, after seeing a book cover showing horses being thrown overboard from a ship an image he found compelling. When Spanish vessels carrying horses to the New World they would get stuck in pockets of muggy heat and they would lighten the load by throwing horses overboard.

Some other horse songs are: All the Pretty L'il horses, Back in the Saddle Again, Big Belly Horse, Horse with no Name, Horses in My Dreams, Horses in the City, Run for the Roses, The Strawberry Roan, Two White Horses, Where the Ponies Come to Drink, Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses, Why do Little Girls love Horses, and Wild Horses.



FALL DINNER DANCE

by Carmela Lizzo

A huge THANK YOU to Jayne Vatcher and Scott Aswege with SJ Ranch for hosting the RVHA Dinner Dance on November 18th. We had a great turnout (over 100 people) and everyone enjoyed the wonderful food and the great music from Tin Cup! Jayne and Scott's company, Cre8tive Events, sponsored much of the decor, staging, and heaters for which we are ever so grateful.

It was a wonderful night of the community coming other to enjoy a crisp evening under the stars – we got to see a lot of familiar faces and make some great new friends! Thanks to all who came out and showed up!



Join us for our next event,
coming soon!



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The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association was incorporated in 1998. The RVHA is a 501(c)(7) non-profit. The following is the organization's Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.

RVHA-AZ.com