



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for and by the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

The Springs at Santa Rita, 951 West Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ 85614

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The Springs Chat is your newsletter. Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Springs Chat is for you and by you. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions - information you would like to share with the community. The committee also wants your ideas and suggestions- just email them to: springschat@gmail.com or contact a member of the newsletter committee: Eileen Owen, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone, Pat Strnad, Pat Johnson, Rebecca Keenan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 3** **Meet 'n Greet**, Fiesta Deck, 3-5
- Mar 10** **Board Meeting**, Anza Rm, 1:00
- Mar 21** **Potluck**, Anza Rm, 5:00
- Mar 22** **Picnic in the Park**, Perry Park, 1:00

March Pot Luck Program:

Part 2 of Ernie Cox Jr.'s wonderful media show.

March food item to bring: Please make and bring your favorite recipe - it can be a salad, main dish or a dessert.

New Member of the Chat

Thank you Rebecca Keenan for volunteering to be on the newsletter committee. Rebecca will be in charge of the "Where Have You Been?" articles. Please contact her or any member of the newsletter committee to contribute an article.

Board Meeting Summary

(February 10, 2015)

Sandie Stone expressed condolences to Norm TenBrink and his family for the loss of his wife, Shirley. A neighbor, Chloe Wolf, is purchasing a bench in her memory.

Roger Olson is recovering from a recent surgery and is wished a speedy recovery.

The Board plans to review the handbook and meet with Attorney Carolyn Goldschmidt for a final review. It should be updated by March or April.

Meet and Greet hosts, Scott and Yvonne Denzer, will continue hosting until April. In order for this activity to continue, a volunteer is needed to replace them. Please contact a Board member to volunteer.

Sylvia and Bill Collins have agreed to host picnic in Perry Park this season in the absence of Doug and Nancy Crosby. Thanks Sylvia and Bill.

Harold Moberly and his crew will continue repairing more of the cracks in the asphalt on the nature path. Harold gave a report on two machines that would be helpful in the repair process.

The 2015 budget includes \$2700 for signs. Of the 88 street signs, 28 are scheduled for replacement this year.

The Compliance Officer's contract was renewed.

The master landscaping plan was amended.

Please consult the HOA website at www.thespringshoa.org for the complete minutes and officer's reports.

Amado Food Bank Donations

(Bill Perry)

February contribution from the Springs: \$355 cash and 18 pounds of food.

Sidewalks for Walking

Please be careful when walking on the road. A car coming around the corner doesn't always see you immediately. It is best (and safer) to use the sidewalk. Also, please don't put your trash receptacles on the sidewalk. It is hard for the handicapped to get around them.

Where Have You Been??

Snow birds and AZ residents alike, you know the drill. You had big plans to explore SE Arizona this winter, but golly it is almost March and your exploratory ambitions have been thwarted by company coming, golf league, GVR classes and just trying to relax. So this newsletter blurb is meant to encourage/remind you to spend a day, or part of one, learning about the area in which we live.

It is a little bit of the "blind leading the blind" as I am relatively new to the area.

However, in The Springs, we are blessed with many folks willing to pass along tips of interest. It is my job to find them!



*Broad-billed hummingbird
(photo by Greg Home)*

For my first article, I want to talk about an Arizona institution that many of you might already know about, but because it is undergoing some changes, it is worthy of an update. A 45 minute drive SE of Green Valley, is a familiar Patagonia home "Paton's" where the owners Marion and Wally Paton have opened their yard to bird watchers since 1973. The tradition of providing a haven for birds and people who wish to observe them has lasted even past their deaths, and is now a legacy managed by Tucson Audubon. Its goal is to "maintain the intimate backyard birding experience of the Paton Center while making improvements to the grounds in support of birds and birders alike".

Now called "Paton Center for Hummingbirds", there are several projects that will impact learning not only about the birds that live in or migrate through the area, but also the habitat we share with the birds. As of this writing, some of the observable projects include rainwater harvesting, gardening for birds, construction of a new observation deck, retrofitting the Paton's home for energy efficiency, some ecological restoration of the grounds to provide more natural food and habitat for the birds and education about Important Bird Areas (IBA's) that are in SE Arizona. Of course, Paton Center is best known for its array of hummingbird feeders, but other

local birds (and sometime rarities) are attracted to the yard which borders on Sonoita Creek.

March and April are excellent months to watch for species that come to breed in SE Arizona.

Birders know that there are no guarantees when it comes to finding birds, but the Paton Center offers a unique opportunity to see many different species, if you are patient and quiet. The yard has an ongoing list of what has been seen recently, and a friendly volunteer or staff member is often on site to assist with identification and helpful information (like the location of the local coffee shop). A pair of binoculars is helpful to fully enjoy seeing the birds up close.

To go: (and you don't need to be a bird nerd to enjoy this), head to Patagonia via I-19 and E 82. Then, turn left on 4th Street and left again on Pennsylvania Ave, and follow the signs to Paton Center. The Patagonia area will tempt you with other fun attractions, such as hiking at the Sonoita Creek Preserve just down the road, but a stop at "Paton's" is worth your while, and you will be charmed by backyard birding at their home. Gates are open from dawn to dusk and entry is free of charge. Tucson Audubon's site is a helpful tool (with a map) to further enjoy your visit. www.tucsonaudubon/paton



Photo by Richard Freshley

Next month, I look forward to 1) introducing you to a common bird seen here in The Springs, and 2) to another SE Arizona attraction. All the best,

Rebecca Keenan

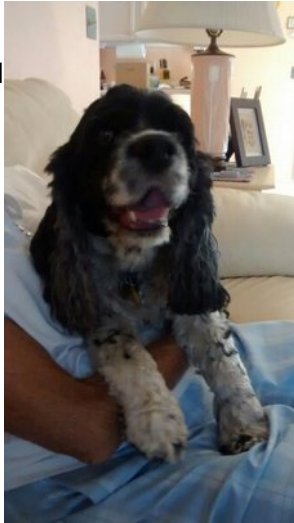


Blue Grosbeaks can also be seen at the Paton Center.
Photo by Mike Parr

Pet Profile

I'm a lovable cocker spaniel called "Rascal", but I'm really not. Well---maybe a couple of times---like when Mary left me in the house while she went out in The Springs and returned to find me in the neighbor's backyard. Or, on a few occasions when I jumped over our front courtyard wall to investigate what's happening in the neighborhood. BUT, I always returned. I guess it's just the "escape artist" in me.

Mary adopted me from BARK in Nogales when I was almost a year old, and now I'm almost nine. The first three years she had me I never barked at all. Then, one day, a man I didn't recognize came into our house and I started barking. Now I bark at fast, loud trucks and people who come to our door, whom I don't know. I never even bark to go out in our backyard or even to be let back in. I just sit and patiently wait until she sees me.



Mary and I walk the first thing in the morning and she lets me decide where I want to go. Sometimes it's on the walking path and others around the neighborhood because I love meeting people who are walking too. Actually, I prefer people over dogs. Don't get me wrong.



Other dogs are OK for a few minutes, but their owners are so much more interesting. That's why some of our walks can be over an hour. We have to stop and chat. That morning walk makes

me famished so it's time to come back for breakfast. I have a second meal in the afternoon. That's when I get green beans over my dry dog food. Some of my other favorites are apples, with or without peanut butter; but my bananas must have peanut butter on them. However, my very favorite is mesquite pods. Don't worry, my doctor said they are OK for me.

Our favorite time together is in the evening on the sofa watching TV. Then I cuddle next to Mary with my head on her lap. I think she likes it too and we really like each other's company.

Well, it might be time for my afternoon walk so I'd better go get ready. Hope to see you around the neighborhood.

Name Badge

Need a name badge? Barb Coggins is the person to contact. Her number is 520.398.5201. Badges are \$6.00 and can either be pin or magnet fastened. Barb needs to know your name as you want it listed and your home state.

Favorite Recipe from the Feb Potluck

Preacher Cake

Cake:

1 c sugar
2 c flour
2 eggs
2 t baking soda
½ t salt
2 t vanilla
½ c walnuts or pecans
1 can crushed pineapple (20 oz)

Frosting:

1 pkg cream cheese (8 oz)
1 ¾ c powdered sugar
¼ c butter
¼ t salt
½ c walnuts or pecans
2 t vanilla

Directions: For cake, combine dry ingredients; add remaining ingredients and mix by hand. Bake in 9 x 13 prepared pan at 350 degrees for approximately 30 to 45 min. DO NOT overbake or it will be rubbery.

Frosting: combine ingredients and mix well. Spread on cake in pan and ENJOY! (Bonnie Roundtree)

Successively Excessively Crunchy Peanut Butter Brownies
From "Death by Chocolate Cookies" by Marcel Desaulniers

Excessively Crunchy Peanut Butter Batter:

1 ½ cups unsalted peanuts (can used salted)
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 ¼ cups tightly packed brown sugar
1 cup creamy peanut butter
¼ pound unsalted butter, cut into 1 oz pieces
4 large eggs
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Successively Excessive Topping:

¾ cup heavy cream
6 oz. semi sweet chocolate chopped into ¼ inch pieces or use semi sweet chocolate chips
1 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
1 cup peanut butter chips

To make the brownies:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Toast peanuts on a baking sheet. About 10-12 minutes then cool. Set aside.

Sift flour, baking powder, salt onto wax paper, set aside.

Place brown sugar, peanut butter, butter, and corn syrup in a bowl of a mixer fitted with a paddle. Mix on medium speed for 4 minutes using a spatula to scrape down the side of the bowl.

Add the eggs one at a time while mixing for another 2 minutes. Gradually add the sifted ingredients as you continue to mix until incorporated, about 1 minute.

Add ¾ cups chopped peanuts, mix for 1 minute. Transfer the batter to a 9x13 non stick pan that is lined with parchment (including up the sides). Pour the batter into pan, spread until even. Place into the center of your 325 degree oven. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted come out clean. When completed it needs to cool at room temperature for at least one hour.

To make the topping:

Heat the heavy cream in a 1 ½ qt. saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil. Place the chocolate into a 3 qt. bowl. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate. Stir with a whisk until smooth. Pour chocolate over cooled brownie and use a spatula to evenly spread over the

entire top of the brownie. Sprinkle the chocolate and peanut butter chips and chopped peanuts over top. Refrigerate for one hour before cutting. Serve immediately or store the brownies in a tightly sealed plastic container.

Brownies brought to you by Nancy Wesorick

GVC Referral Network

Some of you may have read the article in the Green Valley News regarding the GVC (Green Valley Council) referral network designed to link homeowners with trustworthy businesses and service providers who have consistently done a good job. The program conducts a preliminary background check and regular satisfaction interviews with clients to track their satisfaction with the work of listed providers. This program is not a recommendation or a satisfaction guarantee—it is designed to share referrals about vendors and service providers who have a positive track record. It is open only to residents in in the GVC. The Springs at Santa Rita HOA is a member of the GV Council.

In addition, there are also pet services, personal services and financial services and more to come in the near future.

If you need a referral, call Lynda Campbell at 520.444.6760 or email her at:

pvp@gvcouncil.org

HOME SALES

(since the last newsletter)

3657 S. Avenida De Encino - Dale & Marlene Marlowe, Grand Blanc, MI

3741 S. Avenida De Encino - Robert Bahler ???

3689 S. Calle Rambles - Robert & Roberta Ruef, Iron River, WI

3737 S. Camino Del Golfista - Lyle & Dawn Weber, McFarland, WI

3796 S. Camino Comica - Ana Erickson, Tempe, AZ

3767 S. Camino Del Golfista - Steven & Nanette Taller, Morris, IL

Residents of the Month

Steve and Lahna Chaffee

Steve and Lahna met while he was serving the Navy in Bainbridge, Maryland. They later married and moved to his home state of Washington, where he attended the University of Washington parks and recreation program.



They spent the summers in various national parks where he did summer seasonal ranger work before completing his degree in 1975. In 1976 he accepted his first permanent position with the National Park Service at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—just in time for the Bicentennial celebration. While there, Lahna completed her BS degree in business. He then transferred to Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois. Lahna worked in retail management for a few years, then decided to go for her original desire, an RN. She completed a nursing degree in time for the transfer to Olympic National Park in Washington state in 1985. Steve was a supervisory park ranger and Lahna worked at a small local hospital in the ER and as a diabetes educator and sometimes Spanish interpreter!

While in Washington, Lahna joined a bicycle club and took up serious cycling. They did some bicycle touring on their vacations, including an unsupported ride along part of the Mexican pacific coast, and China (their only guided tour, with an REI group), and a retirement ride for Lahna along the Columbia River from Washington to North Dakota—roughly following the Lewis and Clark Trail. Steve provided the sag wagon for this trip, while she rode with three friends.

On one of their bicycle trips, Lahna planned a self-guided tour of southeast Arizona and fell in love with the desert. Having had problems with the rain and gray skies of western Washington, she felt this may be the answer for their retirement. In 2004, they came back to check out potential places to retire, including Tucson, Green Valley, Sierra Vista, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. A friend loaned them his house in GV for a couple of weeks. They later decided this was the place, based a lot on the active lifestyle here, and opportunities for bicycling and hiking. She continues to bike but much less than before. She enjoys yoga classes, walking, reading, healthy cooking, and travel, especially to Guatemala.

Steve continues to hike and is a volunteer with the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT). He works with teams that construct and repair the 800 mile long trail system from the Mexico border to the Utah-Arizona state line. He is also solo backpacking the trail and has now completed 600 miles of it, with more to do this spring and fall.

Steve has resumed writing poetry. As he hikes the AZT, he takes field notes and then writes his poetry, which he intends to use for a book about the Arizona Trail. He is a member of four writing groups. Steve enjoys the GVR fitness facilities, local hikes, and birding.

Santa Rita Mountains

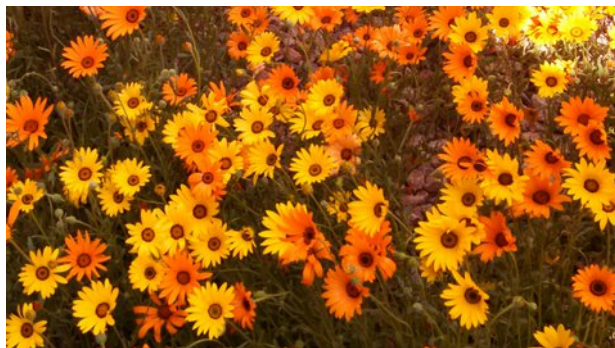
Sky islands tower a high desert
grassland
Huachucas, Whetstones, Santa Ritas
witness yesterday, today, tomorrow.

Once the province of Apaches and
Mexicans
then gold diggers and cattle barons.
Gold played out—danger, keep out!
Native grasses drought stricken,
overgrazed
a cattle ranching bust.

Today, a landscape pastoral, yet worked
ranches sparsely grazing, spinning
windmills, crippled windmills
a Cistercian abbey endures
raven pairs and this trail before me—
marching time.

s. chaffee

African Daisies (by Pat Johnson)



If you'd ever wondered what those silky orange and yellow flowers are that we see by the East Center on Abrego and on the La Posada campus, they are African Daisies, also called Cape Marigolds (*Dimorphotheca sinuata* or *D. aurantiaca*). African Daisies are in the Asteraceae or sunflower family and are annuals with scented, clumping foliage. Their Latin name, *Dimorphotheca*, means "two shapes of seed" relating to the fact that the plant produces an abundant amount of two different kinds of seed in the same seed head. One kind is a flat, beige, oval disc, while the other is a short beige twig. There's no seed pod, but just a cluster of the two kinds of seed in a ball, produced after the bloom has past.

Native to the South African countryside, African Daisies grow in areas with rainfall in the southwest regions of Africa, but they can also be found in the desert, sandy regions of Namibia. Because of the conditions where they originated, they need full sun and light, dry soil. They are easy to grow and one of the earliest to flower in our area. Because of the large amount of seed produced, they are well-suited for naturalized areas and for use as ground cover. Large pots and tubs also can be used to create an excellent display. They are very drought tolerant and adapted to our arid conditions.

African Daisy seeds start to germinate in 10 to 30 days. When sowing seeds, just cover them lightly with soil and keep them moist but not wet. They don't transplant well, so plant them where you want them. They flower in white, orange, yellow and apricot shades with dark centers, and the extravagant colors can last for weeks. In a naturalized area or in the front of a border, the flowers will glisten all day while the sun is shining and then will close up each evening or if in the shade. To prolong their bloom, pick off flowers as soon as they begin to

fade; but in order for them to reseed naturally or to save seed for the following year, allow the flowers to finish blooming and produce seed heads.

Enjoy these colorful additions to our desert landscape while they last!

A Cactus lover's Dream

If you have become a cactus lover by spending time in AZ, an interesting place to visit is B&B Cactus Farm located on the east side of Tucson. The owner, Mark Sitter, often speaks for groups and was featured by the Green Valley Gardeners at a meeting held at Quail Creek earlier this year. Mark is always an interesting speaker. If you are curious about the spiny plants that thrive in our area, he usually brings coupons and free baby saguaros to his talks!

It is a bit of a drive to visit the cactus nursery, but there is much to see there. If you plan a visit to Saguaro National Park East, you could combine the trips. From Green Valley, take Old Nogales Hwy to Sahaurita Rd (Route 83). Go east to Houghton and north to Speedway. Turn right and the cactus nursery is about 1.5 miles further to the east on Speedway.



The nursery features a beautiful cactus garden to walk through, with many large, mature specimens. They also have an interesting collection of pottery. While they originally specialized in landscape plants, they have expanded to include many smaller varieties of both cacti and succulents. There are always helpful staff members available to answer questions about the plants. One advantage for gardeners in The Springs is that the nursery's location can experience some of the same cold temperatures that we experience, so plants that can survive there will also do well here.



The nursery carries and has worked on the development of many hybrid torch cacti (Trichocereus hybrids), which are the columnar cacti with the gorgeous flowers that we will soon see blooming in our yards. If you visit in April and May, the peak blooming period for these cacti, it will be pretty difficult to leave without one. But even if you are not in the market to add to your cactus garden, the nursery is a great place to just walk about, admire, and photograph the huge range of plants found there. --Pat Johnson



Fun Golf

Are you a Springs couple interested in playing 9 holes of non competitive golf at a local course and meeting for drinks and food after? We play Friday afternoons twice a month. If so, contact Eileen Owen (jimeileenowen@aol.com) with your name, address, and phone number and you will be added to the list. Snowbirds welcome

Saturday Bike Ride

Interested in a bike ride? Bill Perry will be leading Saturday morning bike rides. They will be 15 to 20 miles at an easy pace on paved roads. For more information, call Bill Perry at 393-7401 or email at wperry42@cox.net