



www.CFE7.org

P.O.Box 64173, Tucson, AZ 85728-4173

520-323-9299

OCT 2008

Honorees

At our Annual Meeting, we recognized the following residents and Board members for their contributions to our community. Our honorees were presented with a water color of the Murphey Investment Trust Building painted by Warren Edminster.



Connie & Bob Spittler have given their creative aptitudes without question. Connie has contributed numerous essays to our newsletter. Bob created the wonderful roadrunner

which greets us at 1st & Via Entrada. He also has taken many photos which are put on canvas that depict the area's beauty and they can be found in numerous CAT 7 homes. Connie and Bob recently put their creative talents together and captured our community's essence in their book *Desert Eternal*. This work will always be a tribute to the wonderful area in which we live.



Mina and Dennis Litenberger have a combined service on the Board for Catalina Foothills from 1995 to 2002. Mina served as the Vice -president, Architectural Chairperson

and on the nomination committee from 1995 to 97. Dennis was Treasurer from 1997 to 2002. Dennis also contributed countless hours in our battle to try to save the Race Track Wash area.



June-LeClair Bucko was surprised by the presentation from Mike Simons, President of the Board. She has served on the board since 2004 until present. She has served on the Welcome Committee

ensuring all the new residents are aware of the CC&R's of CAT 7. June has been very busy during her years of service. She has served as Chair for the Covenants Committee until May 2008: served on the Fire District Committee; is the head of the Neighborhood watch: writes and edits our semi-annual newsletter; serves on the Nominating Committee and so much more. Perhaps the most visible to us all, June volunteered her time to repaint all of our Cat 7 street signs. This has been a sweaty, prickly, messy, time consuming effort; a volunteer effort from her heart. In return, June has our gratitude, our thanks, and very nice tan.

Thank You



Welcome

We welcome all our new neighbors

Frederick Beeston & Kathleen McCarthy
1850 E Calle Del Cielo

Randall & Susan Friese
1231 E Condesa Tercera

Thomas & Susan Strachan
5121 N Soledad Primera

Paul Ostoya
5221 N Foothills Drive

Fraser & Laurie Richards
5545 N Entrada Quince

What I learned.... Hanging from a Street Sign!

I have to say, this project I decided to take on has been a blast! At first I thought it wouldn't be a big deal, just a little touch up, as I recall my comments to the Board. As reality set in, I saw I was in it for the long haul. The signs were in worse shape than I anticipated. So I put together a collection of equipment and supporting props and off I went to tackle what I could.

I was able to set up one of my faithful ladders, most of the time, to accommodate this not so slender figure. Most of the areas were not too difficult, a little ground adjustment or a rock or two to steady things up. There were a few times I almost came flying through the air like the latest circus act and I might add a not so graceful landing. I would look around to see if anyone was having a good laugh at my expense. Shook up from my almost cata-

strophic fall, I'd start laughing at myself as I once again perched myself upon my ladder to begin my work again.

There was one area I called my Mount Olympia. A group of rocks perched against the mountain side. It was a difficult area to get a balanced ladder. So with more rocks propping Old Faithful (I named my ladders) I would hang half off the sign, ever so high on the ladder. I tried to maneuver myself into a comfortable position, balancing myself so carefully not to create a landslide. I guess I was being watched, because not too soon after I finished, a thankful neighbor came by and thanked me and was astonished by my sense of balance. Little did they know, it really was my sense of fear, holding on for dear life!



I have met some great people while doing my project. I would see the runners, cyclist, walkers, delivery people, and many residents who stopped and said hello or just gave a thanks. I even had a few photographers stop too! One particular photographer came quickly up Via Entrada, stopped abruptly and started shooting away. I asked who she was and she wouldn't answer me. So, I question her intentions, but she still didn't reply. I became ornery and she became more secretive. So I started making faces, I

Committee Reports

Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Jan. 7th, Feb. 4th, Mar. 4th, Apr. 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July/Aug. *no meetings*, 2009, Sept. 3rd, Oct 1st, Nov.5th, Dec.1st, 2008)

Holidays and vacation schedules sometimes result in the rescheduling or cancellation of a particular meeting, so please check with the secretary, 323-9299, to confirm a meeting time.

At the beginning of our board meetings, there is a ten minute period for "Resident Related Issues". These must be scheduled two weeks in advance with the secretary.

Articles for the newsletter are welcomed and should be mailed to Catalina Foothills Estates #7 Association, P.O. Box 64173, Tucson, AZ, 85728-4173 or e-mailed to CFE7News@msn.com Deadline for April publication is Mar.30th and October's is Sept. 28th.

CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President Mike Simons 742-7737
Vice-president Gary Sax 232-1273
Treasurer Jerry Boyle 888-8279
Secretary to the Board
 Jane Hoffmann 323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson Gary Sax 232-1273
 Phil Matthews 299-8886
 John Bowers 529-3099

Covenants Committee

Chairperson Joanne Robinson 615-1938
 Linda Grossman 299-4718
 Bob Sommerfeld 577-0520
 June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989

Welcome Committee

Chairperson Linda Grossman 299-4718

Nominating Committee

June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989
 Gary Sax 232-1273
 Linda Grossman 299-4718

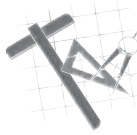
Media Committee

June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989
 Mike Simons 742-7737
 Joanne Robinson 615-1938

Neighborhood Watch Committee

June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989
 e-mail: CFE7NW@msn.com

Do you have a story or a photo you would like to share? We would love any stories about Cat 7 old and new or any suggestions for either our web site or newsletter. We would love to hear from you.
 cfe7news@msn.com



All residents must obtain approval from the Architectural Committee prior to any construction, modifications, or building alterations.

Forms and/or any information can be obtained from the Architectural Committee or Office Secretary, or our web site.

The committee works diligently to review your request and enable you to complete your work project in a reasonable, timely fashion.

Architectural Review Apr. to Oct 2008

	Aprr.	Pending	Comp.	Disa.
A/C	1	1	2	
Addition	8	8	4	2
Driveway Work	4	3	5	1
Entry Ways	1	1		
Gate	2	2	2	
Garage/ carport	4	3	4	1
Harvest Tank	1		4	1
Landscape	5	3	2	
Lighting	1	1		
Painting	11	8	7	
Patio	1	1		1
Pool	2	2	1	
Replace Door/Wnds	1	1	1	
Ramada			1	
Roof Work	8	8	5	
Screening	3	2		
Solar	3	1	2	
Swimming Pool		1		
Wall/Fence	5	6	3	3



Covenant Review Apr. to Oct 2008

	Review	Pending	Rectified
A/C	2	1	
Debris	2		2
Lights	1		
Trash Containers	5		5
Mailbox	1		1
Mech. Equip	3	3	
RV	1		1
Reflective Surface	1	1	
Stagnant Pool	1		1
Signs	1		1
Storage shed	1		1
Shutters	1	1	
Unapproved Const.	4	1	2
Vegetation	2	1	1
White Roof	1	1	
<i>Non-Lot issues:</i>			
Medians	1		
Speeding	1		

Committee Messages

Do You Need a Permit?

When you decide to remodel or do any landscape changes, there are two things that should be on the top of your list. The first is to submit plans to the Architectural Committee to get approval *prior* to the start of your project. The second is to verify the need for a permit. You can visit the Development Serves Dept on the county website. There is a list of 25 common projects in a graph format showing work units and requirements. It is noted that it is a simple list and dependant on the complexity of your project a permit might still be required. Having an approved plan from Cat 7 Architecture Committee does not preclude you from having required permits.

Trash Containers and Recyclables

I'd like to remind all residents of the CC&R's pertaining to trash containers and recyclables

Protective Covenants for Catalina Foothills Estate No. 7 Clause II, paragraph 17:

Trash or rubbish containers shall remain concealed at all time from view of the other lots and roads, and shall not at any time be placed along street right of way.

If you need to resolve the problem of visibility, you can build an enclosure for your container and bins. Remember, the construction of an enclosed area must go through the Architectural committee. The forms to submit can be found on our website www.CFE7.org

Sewer User Fee

In most cases in our area, Pima County Regional Wastewater bills us for sewer charges. Once a year in July, the sewer fees are refigured. The average of the water usage during the previous months of December, January and February are used for the basis of the sewer fee. If a user has three ***other*** consecutive months of water usage that are lower than December, January and February, the Pima Regional Wastewater will re-calculate the sewer fee. A user must call 740.6609 Extension #5 in order to change the fee.

Home Sales!

There are approximately seven homes on the market in the CAT 7 area and a vacant lot. The housing market across the country is having symptoms of a slowing economy, but is that true for Tucson?

If you are selling, it is a very real concern. The large inventory of homes on the market is influencing sellers to be more creative in separating their sale from the growing market. If you are buying, there are some great deals, that is, if you are able to secure the loan. Based on past sales, our area is seeing an average of seventy days on the market, with the average selling price of 665,000 dollars.

Grey Water

Gray water can be collected from the bath tub by using a submersible pump with a hose connected to it. The hose can go out the window and go directly to plants or to a collection barrel. You can also direct gray water from your washing machine's drain hose. These are two very easy ways to be sensitive to our environment. Standard laundry detergents in liquid form contain less sodium than powders. Those labeled biodegradable are the least harmful. DO NOT use softened water because of the salt.

President's Message

To those of you who are new to our community or are thinking of buying property in Catalina Foothills Estates #7: Welcome! Our residents consider CFE#7 to be a very special place. Read and understand CFE#7's CCR's and Architectural Guidelines prior to purchase. Once you move in and before starting any work you must submit plans for approval.

Yes, one of the things that makes Catalina Foothills Estates #7 so special is our strong protective covenants. These CCR's and Architectural Guidelines ensure our community retains the look and feel that is in keeping with the initial design by John Murphey. While a resident might complain about a rule s/he would prefer didn't exist, I will share that residents in neighboring communities in the Foothills admire our strong CCR's and wish they had the same guidance for their HOA and protection for their investment. Some of our neighboring communities have let their CCR's lapse or expire, resulting in subdivided lots, higher structures, and loss of native vegetation.

I thank the many CFE#7 residents who have volunteered their time over the last 30+ years—on our Board, on our various committees, on our neighborhood clean-ups, etc.—and played such an important role in our community!

There are many ways CFE#7 homeowners can volunteer in our community. If you are new, one great way to get to know your neighbors and help in our community is to be part of our Neighborhood Watch group. This group plays an important role in our community by alerting appropriate authorities when something is wrong.

Another way to get involved and meet people is through our neighborhood clean-up. Call a Board member to get the dates for the next event.

As well, the Board itself is a great way to meet people. There are different roles on the Board, with varying levels of commitment.

By way of reminder, as the holiday season approaches be sure to keep a watchful eye for unusual vehicles or people, and call 9-1-1 immediately to report suspicious persons or behavior.

On behalf of the rest of our Board, I wish everyone a very happy holiday season!

Mike Simons
President CFE#7





Neighborhood Watch

Recently in the local news, an article about the Shadow Hills community featured their efforts to reinstate their Neighborhood Watch. We welcome the effort and hope they will, as we have, experience less criminal activity in their neighborhood. I have also been in contact with a few other neighboring residents who are working on organizing their own NW areas.

I can't stress enough. To be successful at a watch, you must work as a team. A team who "watches" out for each other and *knows* to call 911 with any suspicious activity. Most of the time, when I am called, the request is to just receive the NW broadcast that is sent to all participating residents. The inquiries don't belong to an organized block and wish not to organize their own block. Simply receiving this information is only part of what a watch is. The concept is to be the eyes and ears of your block and community for the authorities. Knowing your neighbors, which would typically be your organized group (block), helps you become aware of what is unusual. It gives you resources to verify if the activity is suspicious.

Recently, the Sheriff's Dept. has been working very diligently at many foothill communities to organize neighborhood watches, due to the increase of home invasions as well as burglaries. Most of these incidents happened east of Alvernon and to the north of River Road. Many residents saw the activity but didn't call in the suspicious action because they didn't know their neighbors.

Does it work? Yes, the facts prove it. We organized back in the fall of 2006 after a rash of larcenies and a few home burglaries. We were not calling in these incidents. Since our conception, we have lowered our numbers of incidents dramatically. Informing police of suspicious activity becomes preventive measures. Yeah, it might be an innocent person in the community, *but how do you know?* Police have the resources to verify that they are okay.

If you are in Cat 7 and want to be a participant, you may contact me and we'll see if we can fit you into an existing NW block. There are cul-de-sacs and some stretches of streets where residents have not yet formed a group. If you are looking out for each other now, the next step is easy. It doesn't have to be a large number of neighbors. A few residents organized is one more area working to prevent crime. If you want to organize and perhaps you are unable to get it going, or don't want to be a block leader, give me a call and we will try and get it formed.

Since organizing the watch I have been tracking the incidents that are reported by our residents and actual police reports. It seems the time frame from October to February we tend to have an increase of activity. Statistics show in times of economics stress, crime seems to rise. I ask all to be diligent in calling anything unusual in to 911. I also ask you all to take preventive measures in home security. Most of home invasions and burglaries have happened during daylight hours. Perhaps you leave a window open or a door unlock. Dog doors can be an avenue of access to your home. Cars not locked, or door openers kept in cars are prime targets for larcenies and future visits. If you are away, stop the news delivery! Or have a neighbor pick up the delivery, it is a clear signal that you are away.

There are many measures you can take to insure home security. The Sheriff's website (www.pimasheriff.com) has many of their brochures available on this topic as well as many other topics.

***So Be Aware, Be Safe and keep up the great work.
June your Area Leader***

Combine totals on Auto Theft, Burglary, and Larceny

2004 - 14
2005 - 13
2006 - 32
2007 - 12
2008 - 8



Waste Management

Fees for Waste Management (WM) have risen to \$38.67 per month not including the environmental/fuel fees. This fee is for back door service in a HOA community. An individual household, who uses WM without the discounted HOA community fee, pays over 65 dollars a month for this service. We first started using WM HOA discount fee in 2005. Since then our fee has raised \$4.12 not including the environmental/fuel fees. The environmental/fuel fees fluctuate according to national average of cost given to WM. To research how the fuel and environmental fees are calculated, you can visit the WM website which will link you to the US Dept. of Energy web page containing the rates.

Being Green

Visit the Nature Conservatory website at www.nature.org and take a carbon footprint analysis. Click on Go Green with these green practices. In the next window you'll see the link to calculate your carbon footprint which will compare your impact with the US Average Breakdown.

Theft Deterrence

Anyone who anticipates on swiping a saguaro cactus from the National Parks might encounter more than just a cactus. National Park services plan on imbedding microchips in saguaros and barrel cactus to protect them from thieves who sell them to landscapers, nurseries and homeowners. Most pilferers typically steal young saguaros in the 4 to 7 foot range which can easily be put into a truck bed. Plants of this size can bring \$1000 or more. Each chip would be uniquely coded. Waving a special wand within a foot powers the chip to reveal its code. Lake Mead National Reserve Area in AZ and Nevada began putting microchips in barrel cactus in 1999. Not only has it helped reduce the level of cactus that is poached, but it also has helped with the cataloging the resources within their park.

A Call to Aspiring Journalist

Our bi-annual newsletter needs and wants contributions from residence of our community. Contributions can be submitted any time between now through May.

Community News

con't frm pg 1

What I learned....Hanging from a Street Sign!

figured if she wanted a picture I'd give her a good one! *Never did see it in the news!*

I even had a few groupies, yeah me.... They would come by and we would chat for a while. I didn't often start the day too early, which is what you really need to do here in Tucson, when you're working outside. I'm just not wired to get up that early. On occasion, my groupies would catch me on those early starts. I must have seemed like Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. I must apologize to them as I do to my husband when I rise before the rooster crows.

Then there were my gamers. Yeah, I even became a game. "*Where's the painter?*" The players would head out for the day or on their return home, and look for me. They'd bet each other to see who would be close to my location. Little did they know, I would sometimes change my plan for the day to throw them off or see if they'd find me. They'd ask me about how I was going to tackle a certain sign post, since a few would require some compromising positions. Jokingly, they would comment on what I'd have to do to paint it. I still think they were trying to catch me flat out lying in the cactus!!!!

Many times after getting home and cleaning up from a long day, I'd start removing my foreign attachments. Burrs, needles, bird poop. (*I heard that's good luck.*) Rich would assist in tweezing the cactus needles I couldn't reach or couldn't get out. I would have this cartoon image in my head of drinking a bottle of water just to have it all come out of the holes created by all the cactus needles, *a human fountain*. I began to carry a saw to clear areas around the poles. Sometimes there was just too much growth and I had to call reinforcements to aid me in the clearing. There was one area where there was a Saguaro rather close to the sign. I barely managed to work around it. It was a windy day and I never realized how much those large giants sway. I tried to maneuver my brush so it wouldn't catch me against the sign. So we began a game of "catch me if you can." Unfortunately for me, it won!

Often many bicyclists would wiz by with a cordial hello, commenting to their buddy that they were glad they weren't painting. I envied the skate boarders who rhythmically zoom down the hill. Little did they know I was one of the first to use a skate board in the day! I wanted to join the roller bladders gliding down the hillside like a downhill skier. I'd barely get a hello from the runners gasping for air, *glad I was painting*. Walkers having a deep conversation while keeping a steady marching pace. I

would hear those conversations by all those who passed, excerpts of life in the Catalina's or at the office, a melody of movement and chatter within the sounds of nature.



Sometimes the only sounds I heard was nature in all its splendor. A high pitch scream coming from a hummingbird warning me to get away from its nest. In its fury, it does a few dive bomb maneuvers to get me to leave. Darn! They are feisty little creatures. A cactus wren squawking at me to move on; it wants to be where I am. I would catch a glimpse of movement from a bush below, only to see a Gila monster move away from my presence. Out comes a chirping finch to inform me not to paint its home inside the side opening of the post. Ants nipping me at my ankles as they trailed up my ladder. A hissing snake retreats on a branch of an adjacent tree. I catch the stare from the neighborhood coyote wondering what I was doing. I climb my ladder watching the "Quail's" whistling for their young to hurry away, while the Jackrabbit listens to see if I'm a threat. Whoosh! A roadrunner speeds by chasing something down the wash. A sudden shadow cast over me, in confusion I look above to see a hawk circling. Hmmmm I think he's looking to see if I could be lunch. He definitely has eyes bigger than his stomach!

As I became familiar with the sounds of our neighborhood, I knew who was the usual commuter leaving or returning home. Who was driving too fast! What delivery truck was due to come by and the occasional lost contractor or delivery person. As I began to work one morning setting up my ladder to paint, I hear this truck really struggling, going up the hill. I look and the fellow gives me a nod as he

seems to have a large load of construction material to deliver. I returned to my work and I hear him again, now coming back down the hill. I assumed he missed the home he was looking for. Shortly after he was down the hill, I hear him come back up the hill, and again down the hill, and then again back up the hill, and.... You guess it! Once again he came down the hill. *Why do guys hate to ask for directions?* I yelled, "Hey buddy, are you lost?" He stopped and finally asked about the address he was looking for. I directed him and he's on his way. Next morning I began another sign not too far from where I was the day before. As I started, I hear a familiar sound. I looked up and here comes the fellow from the other day. I nod and he nods and up the hill he goes and sure enough he's coming down again, but this time he stopped and yells "Where is that house again?" *Talk about being lost.....*

In the beginning of my project, many of you didn't know it was me. I hid under my hat and occasionally a few residents would stop and tell me about the neighborhood. I would be asked to keep an eye out for suspicious people. I would be told about the wild animals. I would be asked about how I was doing the job. I even was asked to paint a few mailboxes, which I was happy to do. They would insist on paying me for the work. I wouldn't accept, which made many uncomfortable, so I'd tell them to donate their dollars to CAT 7. I received offers of water, lunch, snacks and sunscreen. I thank all of you for looking out for me.

There were plenty of other stories that I will cherish. I have finally completed the job. 72 sign post, 187 name plates, 287 hours later, and a few mailboxes. I enjoyed it all. Some days were better than others. I was fortunate to observe so much of the great wildlife we have here in the foothills. As I position myself on "Old Faithful" I had views of the city as well as the different majestic mountain ranges. I saw lightning and an occasional rainbow off on the horizon. As I breathe in the blossoming vegetation, I would catch a glimpse of a burst of vibrant color from various flowering cactus. I was granted the opportunity to meet so many wonderful neighbors. What a grand experience. What a special place. We really have a great neighborhood; I hope you are enjoying it as much as I do.

Thanks for the experience.

Yours truly

June Le Clair-Bucko

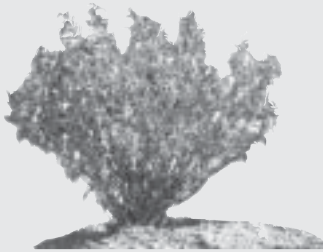
Plants

Wildflowers

It is Fall and it is a good time to plant your wildflower seeds.

Some common wildflowers found in Tucson.

Brittlebush
Desert Bluebells
Desert Marigold
Desert Zinnia
Dogweed
Firewheel, Blanketflower
Globe Mallow
Gooding Verbena
Lupine
Mexican Gold Poppy
Owl Clover
Paperflower
Parry Penstemon
Summer Pop



Bursage

That small little bush that looks like it might be dead is in fact a very valuable plant for seedlings of many of our native vegetation. This small perennial plant is a plant that provides the greatest percentage of the ground cover in our neighborhood. During most of its life many of the brittle branches appear dead, however it will change to a dusty green after receiving it's fill of moisture.

These plants provide the shade, accumulation of humans and protection to young seedlings. If these shrubs are lost it will be very difficult for Paloverde, Saguaro, and other desert cactus to germinate and survive the predation by animals and intense solar radiation of the summer months during the seedlings critical first years.

Without these plants there is little to prevent the movement of seed loss, and the loss of soil across barren desert. We minimize the areas of cover for rabbits, turtles, quails, lizards, and other small animals. So please, no clear cutting! Monitor your landscaper and minimize the destruction to the native vegetation. Our CC&R's protect our vegetation. All landscape work should have a plan and submitted to the Architectural Committee for review.

It's Time to Go Picking!

Fall is here and it is harvest time for apples, pumpkins, and prickly pear fruit. As for the apples and pumpkins, there are a number of farms you can visit and go picking, which I have done with my family a few times. None of the farms are too far and it really ends up being a fun day.

As for the prickly pears, you just have to go outside your home. The *Opuntia species* is the best to pick. This species includes the Engelman prickly pear plant. So what is eatable and how do you prepare it? I didn't know. Wouldn't it be fun to find out and prepare some recipes for my occasional out of town guests!

So I began my search for a book on the prickly pear plant. There are many I found at the different tourist spots, some too wordy or too long of a recipe for me, others didn't tell you how to harvest the plant. I finally did come across a wonderful cookbook by Carolyn Niethammer in which she shares her knowledge of the plant, and explains how to cultivate the pads and fruit. Her book *The Prickly Pear Cookbook* contains various recipes on beverages, appetizers, salads, baked goods and preserves, main & side dishes, and deserts

I didn't know how versatile and eatable the prickly pear plant was. The pads and fruit were used by many past habitants for food, drink and medicine. The *Opuntia species* offers a variety of flavors. Depending on the type of plant you have, the flavor can differ from plant to plant. The young pads of the plant are usually harvested in the spring. The fruit is usually picked mid-summer to fall. The fruit from the *Opuntia species* such as Engelman prickly pear can be eaten as a fruit or made into a syrup, puree, juice, which is used in many recipes.

Since we are in the fall season, I thought I'd share the tips from Carolyn's book on how to cultivate that luscious fruit. When picking the fruit, look for a dark red, plump fruit. It will be easier to pick using tongs or leather gloves. You might want to make a small incision in the fruit and squeeze out some juice. Sample the juice and see if it has a sweet taste then you will know to pick some more from the same plant.

The fruit has spines and glochids so carefully wash the fruit with the tongs and vegetable brush and have close by a pair of tweezers. Scrub the fruit one by one all over and rinse regularly to remove as many thorns and glochids as possible.

Once cleaned fill a medium size saucepan with water and bring to a boil over high heat. Plunge six pears into the boiling water and cook from 10 to 20 seconds. Lift them out with a slotted spoon and transfer to a colander. Hold the fruit with long-tined fork or tongs and peel with a sharp knife. Slit in half carefully scoop out the seeds with a spoon. Eight to ten pears will yield 1 cup of fruit chunks.

Puree: Mash fruit chunks with a fork or lightly blend. If you do too much, you'll have juice.

Juice: Cut the pears into smaller chunks and put 2-3 cups in a blender with half cup of water, cover and blend. Using several layers of cheese cloth, pour the blend into a strain. If you make more then you can immediately use, freeze the remainder.

Syrup: Prickly pear syrup can be used for various recipes, such as toppings on ice cream and pancakes, or in various mixed drinks, smoothies, salad dressing, or deserts.



12 medium Prickly pears
Juice of 1 lemon
1 ½ cups sugar
1 tsp cornstarch (optional)

Put prickly pears in a bowl or dishpan full of water. As you hold each one with tongs, scrub the fruit to remove dust, and stickers. Transfer 6 at a time to a blender and process until liquid. Strain through cheesecloth and strainer into a medium saucepan. Add lemon and sugar and slowly bring to a simmer. Cook until syrup begins to thicken. If you want thicker syrup, stir in 1 teaspoon of cornstarch, first dissolving in a little cold water. Stir with a whisk for smooth consistency.

Syrup can be put into small containers and frozen for future use.

Once you have prepared one or all of the above, using of prickly pear fruit in a recipe becomes easy. So go harvesting, find a favorite recipe and dazzle your friends and family.

Wildlife

This past year we have received numerous reports from home owners who had conflicts with wildlife and pets. We all cherish our pets and want them safe, but we must live responsibly with our wildlife neighbors. Many of our washes are avenues for wildlife to hunt, travel and make their home. When residents feed wildlife it causes a dependency and an aggression by those animals when food is not found. It is also important for pet owners to take extra precautions when letting their animals outside. We ask all residents not to feed any wildlife and forewarn those residents who still insist on feeding the animals their actions could be fined by the AZ Fish & Game Dept.

Since we have had so many reports, I thought it would be helpful to review the possible conflicts and suggested resolution from the AZ Fish & Game Dept. Visit their website at www.azgfd.com to review a more in-depth information on "Living with Wildlife."

COYOTE



Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets

Coyotes are curious, clever, and adaptable. They quickly learn to take advantage of any newly discovered food source, and are often attracted to yards with abundant fruit and wildlife to eat. Coyotes will eat pet food and knock over unsecured garbage cans, or may walk along the tops of walls around homes in search of unattended dogs and cats to eat. Coyotes may consider large or loud dogs to be a threat to their territory and become aggressive toward those dogs. Coyotes have lured free-roaming dogs away from their owners to attack, and bold coyotes may attack small dogs on retractable leashes.

What Should I Do?

If you see a coyote near your home, don't ignore it. This may cause it to lose its natural fear of people, which can eventually lead to aggressive behavior.

To discourage a coyote, immediately:

- Make loud noises.
- Shout and bang pots and pans or rattle empty soda cans with pebbles in it (coyote shaker).
- Wave your hands or objects like sticks and brooms.
- Throw small stones or cans.
- Spray the coyote with a hose.

- Use a commercial repellent like Mace, if necessary, on bold animals that refuse to leave.

In an emergency: If a coyote is aggressive, approaching a person, biting, or growling and snarling unprovoked, then:

- Continue and exaggerate the above actions.
- Don't turn away or run because the animal may view it as an opportunity to chase.
- Keep eye contact.
- Move toward other people, a building, or an area of activity

JAVELINA



Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets

Javelina will likely visit occasionally if you live in a semi-urban area near a wash or other natural desert. Javelina usually cause only minor problems for people by surprising them or eating a few plants. However, people should NEVER feed javelina; this can cause them to become regular visitors and lose their fear of people, creating problems for the neighborhood and often leading to the death of the javelina. Javelina occasionally bite humans, but almost always when people were providing the javelina with food; javelina can inflict a serious wound. Defensive javelina behavior may include charging, teeth clacking, or a barking, growling sound. Javelina may act defensively when cornered, to protect their young, or when they hear or smell a dog. Dogs and coyotes are natural predators of javelina, and they can seriously hurt or kill each other. Javelina around your home may inadvertently attract mountain lions as well, because javelina are mountain lion prey.

What Should I Do?

If javelina have become a problem or have caused property damage, you can do a number of things (see their website) to deal with the situation. Do your part to keep javelina healthy and wild because their removal almost always means death. Always work with your neighbors to achieve a consistent solution to the problem.

To discourage a javelina, immediately:

- Scare off animals by making loud noises (bang pots, yell, stomp on the floor, etc.), throwing small rocks in their direction, or spraying with water from a garden hose or large squirt gun filled with diluted ammonia (10% ammonia and 90% water).
- If the animal is confined, open a gate, have all people leave the area, and allow it to leave

on its own. If it is still there the following day, contact a wildlife control business or the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

- If you see javelina while walking your dog, avoid going near the javelina and quickly take your dog in a different direction.

In an emergency: If a javelina is acting in an aggressive manner toward people, is contained and cannot leave on its own or be let out easily, or is in human possession, please call your local Arizona Game and Fish Department

BOBCAT



Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets

If you see a bobcat near your home, there is no need to panic. Bobcats rarely attack people. However, if a bobcat does attack a human, it generally will have symptoms of rabies. Bobcats may be attracted to a yard that has abundant wildlife, domestic birds, small pets, water, and shade or other shelter. Small pets need to be protected from bobcats and other predators. Keep small pets indoors, in an enclosed area with a roof, or on a leash when outside. Domestic birds should be kept in an enclosed area with a sturdy roof (a 6-foot tall fence is not necessarily good protection), and do not spread seed that attracts other wildlife. Do not feed bobcats, as this can encourage them to become too comfortable around humans.

What Should I Do?

You may choose to watch and enjoy a bobcat or bobcat family sharing your yard. However, if you have small pets or livestock, you may want to discourage the bobcat from coming onto your property. Remember, your neighbor may think differently, and it is always a good idea to keep wildlife wild.

To discourage a bobcat, immediately:

- Scare off with loud noises or spray with a garden hose.
- If the animal is confined, open a gate, have all people leave the area, and allow it to leave on its own. If it is still confined the following day, or trapped inside a residence, contact a wildlife control business or the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Check for kittens in the area, and if kittens are there, then consider tolerating them for a few weeks until the kittens are large enough to leave the area with their mother.

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ESTATES No.7 ASSOCIATION

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In an emergency: *In the rare occasion that a bobcat bites a person or appears hyperactive, there may be some health concerns. Take the following actions:*

- *Contact your county animal control office*
- *Fight back if it has attacked.*
- *Avoid the area and stay indoors.*

RAPTORS

Possible Conflicts with Humans

Birds of prey are common in urban areas, and they can be beautiful and enjoyable to watch, as well as helpful for controlling rodents, rabbits and birds. Raptors can occasionally cause problems for people when they pursue small pets or domestic animals, nest in an inconvenient location, leave droppings or meal remains behind, or defend their nests when people get too close. Urban areas can actually be dangerous for raptors as many are injured or killed by running into power lines, being electrocuted by power lines, hitting reflective windows, or being disturbed within their nest area.



What Should I Do?

Raptors can be found almost anywhere, but especially near bird feeders or farms because prey animals are attracted to those areas. Because raptors are protected by law, common solutions include tolerating small disturbances, staying away from nest sites until the young are able to fly, and keeping small pets inside or in enclosures with a roof. Attempts to keep raptors off your property may or may not be effective, and harming a raptor will result in a large fine.

Removal is usually not an option:

Raptors are protected by both state and federal laws, and harassing, trapping, killing, or even possessing bones or feathers without the proper permits can result in large fines. Raptors are territorial, and moving a bird to another area may cause it to fight with the current occupants or just fly back using its excellent sense of direction most problems are short-term and can be resolved with tolerance or a few small changes. Learning about raptors is the best way to understand how to live with them.



Call your local Arizona Game and Fish Department office (8-5, Monday -Friday excluding holidays). 520-628-5376.

Also, call Arizona Game and Fish if severe property damage has occurred, or if there is possession of a live bobcat, coyote, javelina. After hours and weekends, a radio dispatcher is available at (623) 236-7201.

Remember do not feed the wildlife it could result in a fine.

