



FOOTNOTES *Newsletter*

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ESTATES No. 7 ASSOCIATION

www.CFE7.org

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

520-323-9299

April 2007



Welcome

We welcome all our new neighbors

Rex Adams
5325 N Calle La Cima

John Wesley Teets
1610 E. Entrada Septima

John Bartolucci
5139 N Via Condesa

John and Merle Schneider
1605 E Entrada Diez

Michael and Pamela Evans
5445 N Calle La Cima

Robert and Betty Jones
5140 N Via Entrada

Mark and Maria Silva
1241 E Sobre Lomas

Do we have your correct telephone number and e-mail address. If not, please contact us by phone (323-9299) or e-mail (jhoffmannj@hotmail.com) to update your information.

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Our Annual Meeting will be Thursday May 10th

@ 6 pm at

St Philips in the Hills Church -

East Murphey Gallery

Social Hour

Meeting starts at 7pm

Refreshments will be served.

SPEEDING

Speeding through our neighborhood has been an ongoing problem. We had a speed monitoring device at the end of Via Entrada in 2006 on request of a number of walkers who have had numerous encounters with speeding vehicles. We also have published and asked many times for residents and their known visitors to slow down and be conscious of the walkers and bikers we have in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, we still have a considerable problem with speeding vehicles going through at speeds faster than the 10-25 mph limits that are posted.

I would like to share some information given to me from one of our concerned residents who came across an article that discusses traffic calming devices. (The article appeared in the *AZ Daily Star Dec 2005* address to the Click & Clack column by Tom & Ray Magliozzi. They are radio personalities who give advice on vehicle troubles and repair.)

The reader asked if installing speed controlling devices caused damage to vehicles. He posed this question due to he was an urban planner and found residents either screamed for installation of the devices to control speeders, or they threaten to sue, because they believe it caused damage to their vehicles.

Tom & Ray answered by saying they felt there are areas you don't want cars to go fast but also can be slowed constructively with out harm. Unlike speed bump, which is a small semi-circular bump, a speed hump is a larger raised area. For instance an entire entrance or crosswalk can be raised a few inches so that a car drives up a ramp onto a platform continues across it the then comes down on the other side. As long it is approached at a reasonable speed 20 – 25 mph absolutely no harm comes to the vehicle. To put it in perspective, hitting a pothole is far worse than driving over a speed hump.

Their only caveat is that there has to be clear signage in advance of speed humps. It's not fair to drivers to simply surprise them. If a driver hits a speed hump without slowing down first the tires can leave the ground momentarily making it impossible to stop or steer. That's dangerous. They endorse traffic calming as a way to discourage drivers from speeding through residential areas.

Visit the website they refer to at www.trafficcalming.org

So what do you think ? Do we need to address the speeders in our neighborhood? What are your ideas? Send them to cfe7news@msn.com

Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 7:00p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Jan. 3rd, Feb. 7th, Mar. 7th, Apr. 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July/Aug. *no meetings*, Sept. 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov.7th, Dec.5th)

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 meetings, we allow a ten minute period for "Resident Related Issues" – these must be scheduled with the secretary two weeks before the meeting.

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-mail to Cat 7 News@msn.com. Deadline for March publication is Feb 17th and October's is Sept. 28th.

CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President	Warren Edminster	887-5997
Vice-president	Jerry Bishop	615-5402
Treasurer	Jerry Boyle	888-8279
Secretary to the Board	Jane Hoffmann	323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson	Jerry Bishop	615-5402
	Robert Parks	529-3673
	Dan Smith	888-3167
	Jill Schneider	232-1273
	Mike Simons	742-7737

Covenants Committee

Chairperson	June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
	Linda Grossman	299-4718

Welcome Committee

Chairperson	Robert Parks	529-3673
	Linda Grossman	299-4718

Nominating Committee

Mike Simons	742-7737
Jerry Boyle	888-8279

Media Committee

June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
Mike Simons	742-7737

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*

President's Message

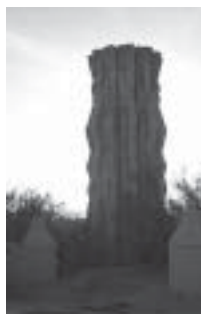
There have, in the past, been new residents in Catalina No. 7 who attest to wish to live in what they equate to a "Utopian environment" and then immediately attempt to violate these CC&R's which form this environment. Pleading ignorance of these rules is not justified as every new resident is required to sign an affidavit testifying that he/she has read and understood the CC&R's and that the property that they are purchasing does – in fact – comply with them. There can be no misunderstanding the intent. This document is signed off before the actual "closing" takes place.

The Board of Catalina Foothills No. 7 HOA is charged with the following responsibility as indicated in our CC&R's. "The prime responsibility of the Board of Directors shall be to uphold and enforce the Declaration of Protective Covenants applicable to the property...".

There inevitably will be times that a variance should be considered. The least expensive process for resolving a dispute is by Negotiation and the most expensive is by Litigation. Other methods of resolution, Mediation and Arbitration fall in between, but any of these methods can still cost as much as \$10,000 or more. This cost can be a tremendous burden to an individual, and to all other members of the HOA in turn. In most cases, a potential variance can be resolved.

Obviously, the very best situation is to have a reasonable and equitable set of CC&R's and a Board that will perform their responsibility in a reasonable and equitable manner. Your Board is attempting to be reasonable and equitable in all cases.

Warren Edminster AIA



Tower Architect Juan Warner Baz

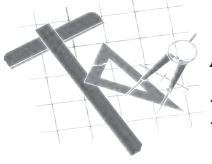
In the March 2005 Newsletter, we ran an article about the Desert Tower at the entrance of Via Entrada/River Road. If anyone is interested in seeing more of Warner Baz 's contribution to Tucson we encourage you to go down to the Broadway Village shopping center located at 2936 E Broadway. Originally there were 10 saintly figures that graced the building's rooftop. Only six remain – one was destroyed by vandals and three have been stolen.

The original statues were made from terra cotta and had deteriorated after years of weathering the elements and other acts of vandalism. Casts of the original statues were made with the help of Benjamin Zarate, an 84 year-old sculptor from Mexico. Elizabeth Pettit and Erma Duran, co-owners of Conservation, Restoration, Design then handled the project to completion.

The names of the figures have been lost to history but the nearly 5-foot high statues depict Franciscan monks and saints in the colonial style and are replicas of works brought from Mexico in the 1960s by architect Juan Warner Baz to top the newly built Broadway Village.

Committee Reports

Architectural Committee



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 Oct 2006 to March 2007

	Approved	Pending	Active	Completed
Addition	6		6	
Driveway Work	3	1		2
Entry Ways	1			
Garage/ carport	2		2	
Guest House	2		2	
Landscape	5		2	2
Painting	3	1	2	2
Replace Door/Windows	4		2	1
Ramada	2		2	
Roof Work	3		3	
Swimming Pool	1		1	
Walkways	2	1		1
Wall/Fence	6		4	2

Covenant Review Oct 2006 to March 2007

	Review	Rectified	Pending
A/C	1		1
Debris	2	2	
Mech. Equip.	1	1	
Stagnet Pool	1		1
Trash Containers	3	3	
Wildlife Feeding	1	1	
White Roof	2	1	1
Vehicles/Trailers	3	3	
Vegetation	2	2	

Non-resident completed & pending issues:
 Vegetation trimming
 Wash damage
 Re-paving culd-de-sac
 Speeding

What is the return on my home improvement?

Even though there has been a housing slowdown in many parts of the country remodeling activity is at record levels in the last 5 to 6 years.

What are the re-coup values in those improvements? According to a few remodeling reports the re-coup on the job cost is dependant on a number of conditions. The location of the home can affect the cost and value of the remodel project, as well as the condition of the rest of the home, value of similar homes nearby and the rate at which property values are changing in the surrounding area.

Here are a few general figures to look at.

Remodeling	cost	resale	re-coup %
Bath	12,000	10,000	86%
Home Office	19,000	11,800	60%
Kitchen Major	53,000	43,000	80%
Minor	17,000	15,000	86%

Additions

Bath	27,800	20,500	73%
Family room	73,000	53,500	73%
Master Suite	92,000	69,600	75%
Sun Room	48,000	31,000	65%

Upscale

Bath	59,000	43,000	74%
Master Suite	172,000	131,000	76%

Replacements

Midrange

Roof	12,700	9,600	75%
Windows	9,800	8,000	85%

Upscale

Roof	22,600	16,800	85%
Windows	12,600	10,900	86%

The above is intended to be informational; you may verify your project's cost vs the re-coup value from actual data from *Remodeling Magazine* annual reports.



A Look at Cat 7 Over the Past 5 Years

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Homes Sales	16	16	17	16	13
Avg. Sale Price	344,800	405,000	466,000	560,000	624,000



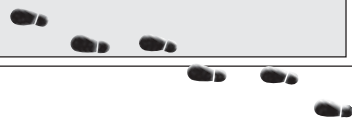
Neighborhood Watch Update

We had our first official neighborhood watch meeting April 19th with the auxiliary police. I am more than happy to say we had an excellent turn out due to everyone's interest, participation and dedication in organizing to make it work! Since we have more than the required 35% requirement for signage, we will be getting signs placed at all entrances to our neighborhood.

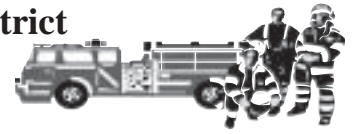
Getting the signage doesn't mean we're done. There are a few areas in Cat 7 that have not organized a block or have not finalized their group. We must all be diligent in keeping all leaders informed and updated on your information. I know our network will keep everyone informed and we will know immediately if we have a problem. Quick access to the Sheriff's Department with our known issues will readily give us the necessary support to rid criminals from our area.

I also expect to expand my efforts to the other surrounding Neighborhood Watch Area Leaders. I hope to create a liaison amongst the other Area Leaders to keep informed on their criminal activity. I also want to encourage the other Catalina Foothills Estates that participate in the CFA organization to organize or re-establish their neighborhood watches.

I thank you all again, and keep those communication lines open. Let's keep up the great work to have Cat 7 as our safe haven.



Status of Fire District Formation



The fire district formation committee was very pleased at the response from last fall's poll of CAT 7 residents. More than 40% of you replied (thank you all) and by a three to one margin, respondents favored the establishment of a fire district. Based on this degree of support, we contacted Rural/Metro and requested an estimated tax rate figure. They, in turn, came up with a figure of \$1.31 (per \$100 of limited valuation). We had hoped that this figure would be more in the \$1.25 range; however Rural/Metro explained that since it would take two years to get the district in place and funded, they have to factor in anticipated increase costs for this two year period.

Using the \$1.31 estimated tax rate, the committee made calculations to see what the equivalent tax rate is under the present subscription service. From a random sampling we found that we are paying between \$1.10 and \$1.92 (the lower range attributed to smaller homes w/ a carport). Most CAT 7 homes fall into the \$1.30- \$1.35 range.

Another factor to be considered is the coverage for vacant lots. Under the existing system Rural/Metro charges \$52 per year for fire protection coverage on a vacant lot; however, if the lot owner lives on the adjacent parcel and subscribes to Rural/Metro, there is no additional charge for the vacant lot. On the other hand, the assessor's office has established a limited valuation ('07) of \$96,136 for each vacant lot. Using the \$1.31 tax rate, the fire district tax on each lot would, therefore, come to \$126 (there are presently 12 vacant parcels in CAT 7, 6 of which are owned by residents living on the adjacent lot).

The recent '08 valuation notice which we all received from the county assessor's office indicates an increase of 10% in the limited value of our property, a figure which is consistent with the increased valuation for each of the past five years. With the increase in limited value, the tax rate will go down provided the service contract cost does not increase a corresponding amount. One primary aim of having a fire district is to limit the costs. Thus, as an example, if the contract limits the cost increase to 2% and the valuation increases 10%, the tax rate will go down by 8%. Other fire districts in the area are paying from a low of \$0.41 (Tucson Country Club Estates) to a high of \$4.50 (Three Points), with an average rate of \$2.16.

Reflecting on what we now know, it is evident that the advantages of having an established fire district are:

1. Cost containment under a long term service contract (during the past 5 years, the annual increase for Rural/Metro's subscriptions has been 6.74%).
2. Receipt of Arizona fire district assistance tax funds in the amount of 20% of district expenses.
3. Deductibility of amount paid for fire district tax for those who itemize deductions on their income tax returns.

Hopefully this article has provided you with the information required to bring you up to date on our investigation into the fire district formation process. There will be a discussion at the general meeting on May 10th on the subject of fire district formation and we hope you will join in with your comments and questions.



Lock Bumping

I recently attended a HOA meeting in a neighboring community which is experiencing an increase in criminal activity. The Sheriff's Department was asked to be their guest speaker. With the increased concern of robbery & larcenies a question came up about "lock bumping."

So what is "lock bumping"? Lock bumping is a simple technique of opening what are called pin tumbler locks, which are the most common locks in use for residential and business doors. Bumping involves customizing the type of key that fits into the particular kind of lock then tapping or hitting the key in just the right way and at just the right moment to cause the lock to open, therefore the term "bumping." Opening the lock is accomplished in less than 1 minute.

According to the National Crime Prevention Council and the Department of Justice nearly 2/3 of break-ins occur with no sign of forced entry. While some of these may be the result of unlocked doors, most experts agree that lock bumping, picking, or use of an unauthorized duplicate key are often the cause.

Bumping has become so popular that there are web sites that are openly selling bump keys for a variety of locks including a "bundle" of all of the keys for a special price. A manufacturing company is selling a special bumping tool that is used to tap the bump key in a lock.

Bumping is vulnerable to many standard locks, as 90% of American doors have old style cylinder locks. According to experts, there are locks that are not vulnerable to lock bumping. Those include magnetic or electronic locks and locks using rotating disks. They are more expensive but worth it if you want to feel secure. Talk with your locksmith about the differences and which locks are recommended.

The NCPC (National Crime Prevention Council) has partnered with Medco Locks in educating consumers of this criminal activity. Replacing old tumblers with a slightly more expensive lock is a relatively small investment to increase security and keep a criminal from entering or breaking into your home.

River View Estates Committee

Several years ago, when River View Estates was in the planning stages, a group of homeowners from Catalina Foothills Estates #7 became concerned about the size, height, and development standards of that proposed subdivision which was being developed on the west bank of Racetrack Wash. A group of individuals started a legal fund to support efforts to review plans for River View Estates and seek changes as required to maintain the fine environment in which we live.

That subdivision is now completed and the developer has met the conditions of its agreement with the committee of surrounding homeowners. Therefore, the remaining assets in the legal fund, is being returned to the original CFE #7 donors. Unfortunately, some of the donors have since moved away and we are asking for your help in finding their new addresses. If any of the neighbors of the following individuals know their new addresses please call Jane Hoffmann, Secretary to the Board, at 323-9299.

In advance, thank you for your help.

Lot 52	1510 E Entrada Sexta	Jeannie Duncan
Lot 82	1835 E Calle Del Cielo	Kim Giles
Lot 141	5121 N Soledad Primera	Mary Mathias
Lot 179	1771 E Entrada Doce	Roger Murphy
Lot 205	5139 N. Via Condesa	Drexel Bates
Lot 246	5542 N Via Entrada	Abe Chanin
Lot 300	1000 E Via Entrada	Hugh O'Brien
Lot 312	5221 N Foothills Dr	Ken Rhoads

Get Green! Drop Your Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Want to help our environment and lessen the effects to global warming. Cut back your carbon dioxide emissions by doing a few simple activities. Follow the suggestions below and cut emissions by **2802 lbs a year**.

To lower carbon dioxide levels you can:

	Emission reduction Lbs per year
Turn the thermostat down 1 degree at night in the winter	79
Don't run the shower excessively	342
Wash whites with warm/cold cycle	62
Cancel delivery of print catalogs	154
Use of cool white compact fluorescent bulbs	300
Hand wash dishes after dinner	200
Use 2 power strip surge protectors turn off at night	315
Set computer to sleep mode sooner	250
If you use your dishwasher run a full load	100
Reduce your garbage, recycle paper, plastic, and glass	1000

Here are a few "Green" sites you may want to visit:

www.thegreenguide.com -in depth product reports, especially good on health & nutrition
www.aceee.org -American council for Energy-Efficient Economy. Straightforward information
www.stopglobalwarming.org - Consumer tips
www.energystar.gov - the symbol we have come accustomed to indicate energy savings. Consumer information.

Water smarts:

www.watercasa.org -Committed organization on furthering water conservation options and programs, and education its members, who include Pima County Waste water, US Bureau of Reclamation, the Town of Oro Valley Water Utility, Metro Wastewater District and the Town of Marana Water Dept.

www.h2house.org -dedicated to help homeowners preserve water, offers information on easy ways to save as well as water- use calculator to figure out just how much H2O your using.
www.globegreen.org - official site of the national group dedicated to green efforts, which offers green building resources.

Useful Numbers & Links

Catalina Foothills Est. #7

323-9299

Web

CFE7.org

webmaster@cfe7.org

News

CFE7news@msn.com

Neighborhood Watch

CFE7NW @msn.com

CFA

327-9693

catalinafoothillsassociation.org

Pima County

Sheriff

911

www.pimasheriff.org

Shannon Station

547-6311

Dept Dev. Svc.

www.pimaexpress.com

Build Codes

740-6441

Zoning

740-6450

Graffiti

743-7550

Barking Dogs

743-7550

AZ Wildlife

628-5376

Azfd.com

AZ Native Plant

Azps.org

Tucsoncactus.org

Tucson Clean & Beautiful

791-5000

cityoftucson.org/tcb/rd/rmbsr3.htm



"Geez... I'm so hot... I'm Bacon!"

Spring Cleaning

One man's trash is another's man's treasure

Doing a little spring cleaning and don't know what to do with some of those old treasures? Before throwing away an old treasure, or even an old pair of sneakers into the waste stream check to see where it can be reused or recycled by somebody else.

First, visit Tucson, Clean and Beautiful at www.cityoftucson.org/tcb/rd/rmbsr3.htm. Tucson Clean & Beautiful is a nonprofit organization that conducts environmental volunteer programs in waste reduction and recycling, land stewardship, urban forestry, and beautification. It's a resource directory dedicated to recycle, buy, sell, donate, rent & repair used items.

It's resources cover:

Alternative Energy	Computers & Electronics	Pawn Shops
Appliances	Diapers	Plastic bags
Arts & Antiquities	Eyeglasses	Plastic buckets/plant containers
Automobiles & Parts	Food	Plastics-Industrial
Batteries	Furniture & Equipment-Home/Office	Printer/Copier Laser & Ink Cartridges
Bicycles	Greeting Cards	Sporting/Outdoor Equipment
Books & Magazines	Hearing Aids	Tallow, Cooking Grease & Oil
Building Materials	Linen Services	Tires
CD's, Records, Video & Audio Tapes	Medical Equipment	Tools & Machinery
Cellular Telephones	Musical Instruments	Travel Trailers
Christmas Trees	Packing Peanuts & Styrofoam	Environmentally Friendly/Recycled
Clothing & Housewares	Pallets	Contents Merchandise
Compost & Greenwaste	Paper-Shredding & Document Destruction	

The site also has information on Tucson's & Pima County's recycling centers & programs as well as other informational links.

Visit : www.eco-artware.com/eco-news/resource-guide.html you'll find resources for the above articles and ideas on how to make use of some of those treasures. They have links to resources for all of the above treasures in addition to:

Athletic Shoes	Earth 911	Material exchange programs	"Wrap Art"
Compact Disk	Junk Mail- Personal & Business	Wedding & Bridesmaids' Dresses	

At their website visit "The Internet Consumer Recycling Guide" for information on recycling.

So before you throw that treasure away see where you could possibly have it reused.

Plant & Wildlife

Mar. 17, 2007

Dear Resident

As Spring is approaching and many neighbors are fixing up their yards, we would like to remind you of one of the important features of our neighborhood. Cat #7 is known for its beauty and natural desert vegetation. With this in mind, please carefully oversee your gardener(s)-sometimes they tend to get overzealous and clear important desert scrub, anything that looks like a weed. Not only are these important water conserving plants that help other plants, they also are part of the 'desert Look'. Along similar lines, if you are considering a redesign of landscaping in your front yard, we ask that you incorporate the theme of natural desert and avoid a pristine, highly manicured look.

Thank you so much for helping us preserve the beauty and history of our neighborhood.

Sincerely
Your Neighbors

Hummingbird

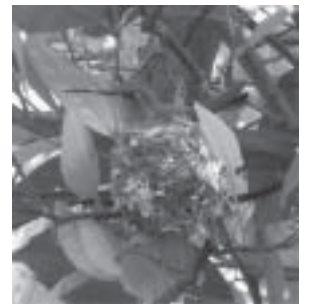
The hummingbird is the most remarkable and smallest bird of the southwest. There are several hummingbird species that find their way to the southwest desert. The Costa hummingbird is one of the few that resides here during the hot summer months. Some hummingbirds winter in Mexico and farther south, sometimes returning to the same tree, even the same branch, to nest each year.

In the spring the Costa's will display a courtship by the male flying gigantic circles emitting a shrill sustained call the entire flight.

The Hummingbird is one of the few birds that can rotate their wings at the shoulder. This feature enables them to hover, make dead stops in midair, and turn on a dime.

Tiny insects make up the greatest portion of their diet. Plants such as bladderpod, desert willow, rabbitbush supplement their diet during the year when insects are not as readily available. Their use of flower nectar assists in pollinating many plants.

Their nest is usually extremely small, in a tea cup fashion situated on a branch, constructed of grass blades, spider webs, and other fibrous material.



"Making a home in our orange tree"

Plant & Wildlife

Shade to Shadow – The Story of a Friend Turned Foe

By Erica T. Lee

I believe it was the gift of growing up playing in the sweet smelling creosote flats and flash flood carved washes of northeast Tucson in the 1970's that has in great part made me the person I am today, both personally and professionally. Undoubtedly inspired by the mysterious world of plants and animals which included towering saguaros and chollas that seemed to jump unprovoked, horny toads rumored to shoot blood from their foreheads to blind their prey, giant tarantulas who looked fierce and yet allowed themselves to be held and even petted, it was a peculiar world, strangely beautiful, and as with many who come to know this desert, I fell in love.

Today, I am a botanist/biologist, no doubt inspired by the millions of growing footsteps I laid scorching day after scorching day exploring this truly unique and finite landscape we know as the Sonoran Desert. Unique in that it is the wettest desert in the world, enter saguaros, and finite in that it is the only one of its kind, encompassing an area roughly the size of Oregon. In 2006, the Old Pueblo, once home to only as many tribal peoples as the lush Gila and Santa Cruz river corridors could support, held in balance by nature itself, passed the 1 million mark. It's astonishing really, considering we were feeling the pressure of our limited resources in the 1970's.

With the changing demographic face of our desert, and all that comes with those 1 million people, our influence has begun to take its toll. I saw this most clearly the other day while out on my lunch break walk. I commonly escape the drone of my computer for the mesquite filled wash just west of my office near Campbell and River at Via Entrada, you know the street with the peculiar 3 story tall, brick tower. As I walked along, taking in this remnant alcove of Sonoran desert, graciously spared the fate of much of the newly developing parts of Tucson, I saw something most unsettling. Growing in the saguaro's "nurse-tree" position at the base of a mature mesquite, offering sun protection and water retention, was an African Sumac or *Rhus lancea*.

My heart sank into my stomach, here in this fragile desert community was the now known aggressive usurper of our native trees, shrubs and saguaros and all the wildlife that depends on these plant species. As I continued up the wash, one by one, below mesquites, cat-claws, and paloverde I observed young, thriving African Sumac. A known water guzzler, prolific seed producer, allergenic pollen disperser, and native tree displacer, I realized the ball was already rolling, the fragile balance had once again been thrown off as the unchecked nonnative species was out competing our perfectly held in the balance native species.

A study began in 1983 by the University of Arizona Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, near A Mountain, to track the trend of invading, nonnative plants. The study found a 50% increase in the number of established nonnative plants in a 22 year period. This is when the campaign to disseminate information and make a concerted effort to impede the fiercely established Buffelgrass (*Penisetum ciliare*) began. In 1984, there were no African Sumac growing at the study site, on the return visit in 2005, 16 established individuals were located, believed to be associated with the nearby development. The study found the longer an invasive species is permitted to remain, the more likely it is to surmount to invasion.

I went to the housing community above the wash, with its charming old style Tucson neighborhood, its red brick and earth-toned adobe houses, an abundance of native flora, lovely really, with the Catalina's in the background and the city below. What I found was the "source", a sprinkling of young African Sumac, randomly dispersed along the road-sides and medians, most likely by the once strategically placed "parent plants", planted in the 1960's and 1970's as shade trees on the south and east sides of peoples homes. The trees have become by far one of the tallest things present, taller than any native tree and beginning to obstruct the views and engulf the homes they shade. The seemingly harmless South African native has proved itself a formidable foe.

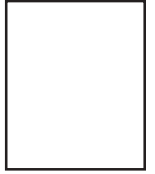
I decided to take action. I believe it is early enough in the infestation, not only in this neighborhood, but throughout Tucson, that with a little education and elbow grease, these young African Sumac trees could be removed to effectively reopen this "niche" or ecological home to a native plant that has, for the moment, been displaced.

It is my hope that others who hear the story the desert is trying to tell us, in its "outside voice", will consider taking the necessary steps towards regaining that which we love, our desert home. To find out more, have a presentation on native and nonnative plants at your next meeting, and/or help with removal, please contact the Arizona Native Plant Society at www.aznps.org or ericatlee@hotmail.com.



CATALINA
FOOTHILLS
ESTATES No.7
ASSOCIATION

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



Don't Forget

May 10th Annual Meeting
6 pm Social Hour
7pm Meeting

Refreshments will be served.

