

# Desert Dwellers

Volume 9, Issue 31

March 2006

## Neighborhood Inspiration

Is there anyone in the neighborhood who hasn't noticed the wonderful, ongoing beautification project at the triangle where Canyon View and Genematas intersect?

The last issue of Desert Dwellers described the efforts and the people who got the first part of this project going (Joni Kalis, Jay & Carole DeAngeli, Froilan Cota, Brian Hagen, Rick Marimow, Jessie Wood) After the adobe walls were rebuilt, interested neighbors were asked to donate and install

some plants. Many of us looked at that large expanse of dirt and found it hard to imagine how a few plants might improve the area. While we were pondering this challenge, another neighbor and his wife

took the initiative and sparked a heartwarming renewal of interest in the spirit of neighborliness!

Angelo and Carol Dellacona had a vision of what might be. They implemented this vision by donating several tons of rock and gravel and the time and labor required to landscape the triangle. They created paths, hills, and small rock walls. They talked to nearby neighbors and asked for plant contributions, and then dug holes and planted a variety of native specimens. This generous effort acted like magic, and suddenly the triangle looked like a place with dozens of possibilities! Neighbors from all over Oracle Foothills began to stop by and plant things and chat with other neighbors, some for the first time. With Angelo's ongoing encouragement, and help from dozens of residents, the triangle has evolved to its present state of natural beauty, complete with sculpture, a mosaic-covered stone bench, and newly installed desert plants and trees.

Sincere and grateful thanks are due to **all** who participated in this pro-

ject! Although it is impossible to know the names of everyone who pitched in, some of the participants and their contributions (in addition to labor) include: Rick & Teri Marimow, (water and plants); Al Kogel, (plants, water, metal sculpture, art tiles, & stone bench); Amaya & Froilan Cota, (\$ for tree, holes for ocotillos); Jouhaina & Elias Moussa, (trees); Liz & Glenn Sherwood, (plants & birdhouse); Kathleen & Roy Kyle, (\$ for hanging star & bench trim); Miriam & Hal Fritts, (plants & trees); Leo Roop (saguaro) Sherry & George Grimm, (plants & saguaro ribs); Joni Kalis, (cactus); Carole & Jay DeAngeli, (plants, sculpture installation, nurturing, & recruitment of help); Pat, George & Nick Genematas, (cactus & saguaro skeletons); Mary Stiner (plants); Suzan Jervis & Steve Dawe, (saguaro skeletons); Paul Lee, (cactus); Alice and Allen Whiting, (contribution); and, of course, Carol & Angelo Dellacona, (plants, design, nurturing, maintenance, recruitment of contributions and help, mosaic work on stone bench).

Our apologies to anyone whose contributions aren't noted here. They are appreciated, nevertheless!

*Liz Sherwood*



*Carol, Angelo and Serena Dellacona at the Triangle*



*Carol Dellacona's mosaic work on Triangle bench*

## Got a Gripe??



Who doesn't? Take a moment to call or write to your state representatives and let them know how you feel. We are in **Legislative District 26** and are represented by:

### Senator Toni Hellon

1700 W. Washington  
Room 303  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-926-4236  
thellon@azleg.gov

### Representative Steve Huffman

1700 W. Washington  
Room 219  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-926-3394  
shuffman@azleg.gov

### Representative Pete Hershberger

1700 W. Washington  
Room 112  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-926-5839  
phershberger@azleg.gov

Or, go straight to the top:

### Governor Janet Napolitano

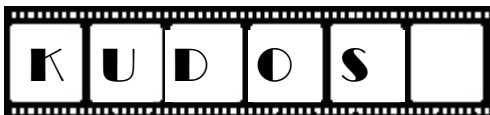
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-4331  
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/post/feedback.asp>

I am presently campaigning to return Arizona to **two required license plates**, front and rear. I feel strongly that law enforcement

and crime victims would all be much better served by making cars and drivers more identifiable. There is currently a bill in the legislature, **SB 1028**, which would reinstate this requirement. I can personally think of no good reason NOT to have a front plate, as most other states do. Only criminals benefit from the one plate requirement. SB 1028 is being sponsored by **Sen. Carolyn Allen**. If you agree with me and Senator Allen on this issue, please contact her at:

1700 W. Washington  
Room 303  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-926-4480

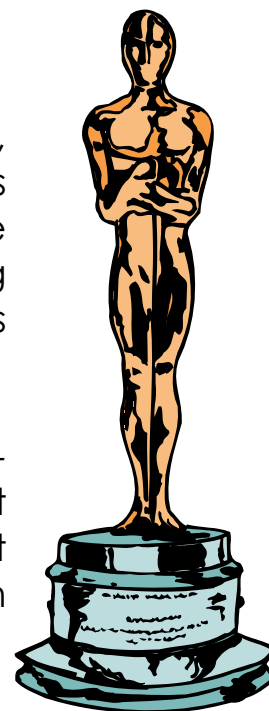
*Carole DeAngeli*



Our heartfelt congratulations go out to OFNA neighbors and supporters **Diana Ossana** and **Larry McMurtry** for the stunning success of their movie, **Brokeback Mountain**. Diana and Larry wrote the screenplay for the movie, based on the short story by Annie Proulx, and recently were the recipients of the Academy Award for the Best Adapted Screenplay. The movie also was honored for Best Director and Best Original Score. Diana also co-produced the movie.

Besides the Oscars, honors and awards galore have come their way, including four Golden Globes and critical acclaim.

*Brokeback Mountain* will soon be out on DVD. Look for it in video stores on April 4th.



## Bill's a Busy Guy

Neighbor **Bill Broyles** is in the final stages of co-editing his fifth book, *Dry Borders: Great Natural Reserves of the Sonoran Desert*, with University of Utah Press. Since that won't hit bookstores for months, we visited recently over book number four, ***Sunshot: Peril and Wonder in the Gran Desierto***. Its pages hold Bill's thoughtful essays coupled with the exquisite black and white photographs taken in large format by Michael P. Berman. The project pays homage to the wild country at the heart of the Sonoran desert where you could "walk days and days and never see a soul."

Bill has trekked this isolated pocket of beauty and come to love the place, referring to it as the Grand Desert, rather than the Devil's Highway. It's a place with "a rich history; human, natural and geological. Complex but simple, beautiful and hard."

About half the essays began with ideas gleaned from earlier articles he previously published in Arizona Highways. The other half contains completely new material. Bill thought the book was about the desert itself, but after having finished, he realized it was also about the people "living at the fringe."

Bill chose the amazing quotes that open chapters. He worked collaboratively with the photographer and Southwest Series editor, Joe Wilder to select photos that made subtle or blatant connection with his writing.

Turning the pages and listening to Bill, you

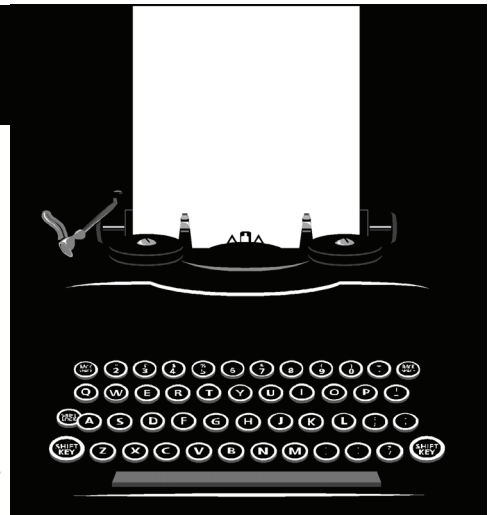
can't help but feel how important his relationship is to the land. "I like it out there. It feels like home. It's a comfortable place for me. I've had people show me places and I've

gone on my own," Bill said. "It's ferocious, not an easy place to love....but see it in it's different moods and it's a place you'd rather be than anywhere else."

I suspect Bill saw quite a few of those moods on one of his adventures that took him 350 miles on foot over three-and-a-half weeks. The thought of taking the time to discover what's around you while you walk to your destination made me embarrassed to have driven to his house for a sneak peek at one of the first copies off the press.

*Sunshot* will be available in May. Read more about the book on the University of Arizona's website (you could order one there too), or pick one up at Silverbell Trading (Casas Adobes, Oracle and Ina), or other fine booksellers!

*Marge Pellegrino*



Newsletter Notes ~ For any suggestions or contributions to this newsletter, please contact:  
**Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107, [ejdeangeli@earthlink.net](mailto:ejdeangeli@earthlink.net)**

## Reaping a Rich Harvest

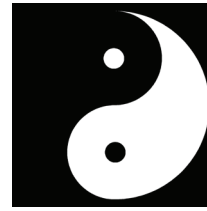
Hospitality. Usually we think of that as something one person(s) gives others. . . A recent experience left me thinking of hospitality in terms of pleasurable reciprocity.

For four weeks in January and February, 36 Korean teachers of English to middle-schoolers in and around Seoul studied methods of teaching English as a foreign language at the University of Arizona. Their "spare" time was spent immersing themselves in our southwestern culture. As the program leased space from the church I attend, early on I had met one teacher when she came into the church office to ask permission to look at books in the library. That was a cultural immersion experience for this assertive American who would have just marched in and started looking. Given that charming introduction, when my husband and I were asked to host some teachers for a homestay weekend, we said, "Yes."

On a Friday evening I brought four women to our home. After the Cook's tour of our abode, they were all in the kitchen wanting to help fix dinner inbetween snapping photos of every step of the meal preparation. They were

amazed at my rice cooker, but not as I had anticipated.

"Have not seen one like that for years," they exclaimed. They delighted in the battered old tin measuring cups that I first used as a child in my mother's kitchen. Everyone chopped up something for the Cole slaw and we soon sat down to shrimp etoufee, lively conversation, and more picture taking of the Entemann's chocolate cake. They soon figured out that day happened to be my birthday, so after dinner they sang Happy Birthday to me in English, then Korean, and watched eagerly as I almost regretfully unwrapped four beautifully wrapped gifts brought from Korea. Over breakfast the next day, we planned our day and they teased Derek for skipping out on us for golf. Warm weather enhanced our visit to De Grazia Gallery and encouraged the snapping of a zillion more pictures. At lunch I reveled in being treated to food at Takamatsu, the Korean restaurant they declared authentic and the best in Tucson. We made a quick dash down to Tubac and the Art Festival, then back home for a wiener and marshmallow roast over our fire pit. The Chou family, Korean friends from church, joined us, so our guests were able to chatter away



about their experience in their familiar language. Mind you, they did exceedingly well with their less familiar language. Did I say a lot more photos were taken? Sunday morning the

two women who were Christian not only wanted to go to church with us but wanted to see everything that went on the whole morning. During worship they seemed to be sitting on the edge of their seats to better take in everything around them. Several friends at worship joined us for lunch at Chaffins for Reuben sandwiches, a novelty for our guests, and more lively conversation. With hugs, warm wishes, promises to email, and a twinge of regret it was over, we parted, each to move on in our lives.

A week later when Derek checked his church mail box, he found a farewell note from Gyu Sook along with one of her poems: "You are The Teacher of Mine!" We had not known until then she was a poet. "Gyu Sook, the teaching was a two way street." Little had we anticipated how rich this weekend would be and how happy it would leave us.

*Carolyn Redmore*

### *You are the Teacher of Mine*

*Park Gyu Sook*

What divine fate it is for us to meet each other! I didn't meet you at a noisy market, Nor under the glaring and garish tackiness of neon Where minds and faces are obscured. There were no transactions between us, No collateral, no loans, no interest, We did not exchange sly stares Intended to take advantage of each other. Nor did I consider the profit potential That our relationship might bring about in the future.

Instead, between us  
Remains only heartfelt compassion  
For each other's burden  
Upon which we cannot act  
But instead just gaze on with compassionate hearts  
The differences between us extend beyond just time.  
I just want to make you well-prepared  
For the jungle out there.  
And you remind me of the purity  
That I have long since lost.

Without makeup your face glimmers and shines  
While even the fanciest brand-name cosmetics  
Work no wonders on my face  
A face that has more and more blemishes  
Blemishes that I am so desperate to hide  
Because I am afraid my blemished face  
May reflect my blemished mind.  
However hard I may try, I know, I cannot look pretty  
Nevertheless, your sweetest flattery  
Prompts me to look at you in a way  
That I failed to do even for the love in my life.  
While I teach you just  
English It is life that you  
Teach me.

Yes, it is you that are the teacher!

*Written by Park Gyu Sook, one of Carolyn and Derek Redmore's Korean visitors, who is a published poet in Korea*

## Desert Neighbors

The peaceful, friendly chatter of the back yard birds suddenly goes still, replaced by the *whoosh* of wings taking frightened flight. Sure enough, the Cooper's hawk settles into a high branch and surveys the dinner possibilities. This medium-sized hawk (14-20") preys on small birds and mammals, and the birds are well aware of the danger, sensing his (her?) arrival long before I can see him.



However, the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is also prey to larger raptors, especially the Great Horned Owl, who will rob the Cooper's hawk's nest of eggs or nestlings. At times we've had a Great Horned Owl roosting in one of our large eucalyptus trees. So well camouflaged was he that I



only discovered his presence when the Cooper's hawk loudly harassed the owl with his insistent "kek kek kek kek kek." Once Cooper's arrives, there'll be no rest for the owl.

Coop will hop around in the tree getting closer and closer to his enemy, who does his very best to ignore the pest. Apparently the tactic worked, however, as the owl has not returned, seeking more peaceful sleeping quarters elsewhere.

Toward the eastern end of Canyon View Drive, high in a large eucalyptus tree sits a big mass of sticks, bark and leaves - the Cooper's hawk's nest - which is now being prepared for the nesting season. Hopefully, before long, little Cooper's will be making their appearance. I am thrilled that these beautiful birds have chosen to make our neighborhood their home also. My smaller bird friends might not share my enthusiasm!

Carole DeAngeli

## Parry's Penstemon



Looking for a reliable early bloomer for your desert garden? How about giving Parry's penstemon (*Penstemon parryii*) a try? Also called Parry's beardtongue, the 1 to 3' stalks bearing pink to red tubular flowers are stunning in large groups, and can begin blooming as early as late February. Hummingbirds are drawn to the blooms, making this an important addition to your hummingbird garden. The plant itself is a short-lived perennial (4 to 5 years) but will readily self sow. Full sun and well-drained soil are appreciated by this easy going desert native. Supplemental water in low rainfall periods will enhance the penstemon's appearance and next year's blooms. Remove the flowering stalks as the seed is forming to stimulate more blooms.

Happy Gardening!



Carole DeAngeli

## Spring Musings from Yvon Drive

The Spring Equinox brought snow to the Catalina mountains and a crisp, clear day filled with rejoicing bird songs graces our neighborhood. The Gila woodpecker returns and dips his red capped head to drink from the blossoms of the claret cup cactus. His rhythmic movement takes flight and he lands on the Cat Claw Acacia Tree. Pecking away, he is joined by several Mexican house finches as they land on the top branches that are bursting with yellow puff balls. Their red breasts shimmering in the sun's rays, as a goldfinch flits from branch to branch.

The cycle of rebirth and returns. The leaves return to the Desert Willows, Mesquites, Acacias, etc., and the Ocotillos are so majestic as they sway in the wind. A phainopepla lands on the red flamed tip of their green leafy stalks which accentuates his red eyes and glossy black feathers. Flying out into the air to catch an insect, his crest looks like he has a spiked mohawk. Below, the cactus wrens scurry about while two curve-billed thrashers dart here and there -- scraping the earth with their bills and swallowing their catch in-a-flash. The plants are certainly getting their exercise too -- moving with the winds. The desert is filling with bursts of yellow blooms right now.

Talk about yellow, a goldfinch lands gingerly on the bee bush as a mockingbird sings and imitates other birds near by. A mourning dove tries to make a nest on the eaves of the front porch and it is hopeless. She and her mate keep dropping sticks and they fall into the Rosemary bush. Doesn't look like they will be making their nest there. But, a mother quail has made her nest in my potted Greek oregano plant. Twelve speckled ovals resting under her feathery warmth. She is such a good mother, as she diligently nestles her eggs, hour, after hour. Her feather, on the top of her head, is often the only thing I can see. She blends in amongst the leaves and it is hard to make her out. I look out the window and we are almost at eye level. She is staring at me and I quickly move away.

I have devised a watering system for when she does get away from her nest. Taking a water bottle and cutting the bottom off, I inserted the top part of the bottle all the way down into the plant. This way, I can run water into the bottle and the eggs don't get wet. Can't wait to see how many hatch.

The woodpecker is joined by another one. She has no red crown and is very vocal. I think I will call her Gila and the other one Gilo. They take off and disappear. A bunny scampers out looking for tender greens to munch. The sun is getting lower and now beginning to set. Another glorious red/orange/pink-filled sky, another beautiful day in the neighborhood.

*Barbara Schuessler*

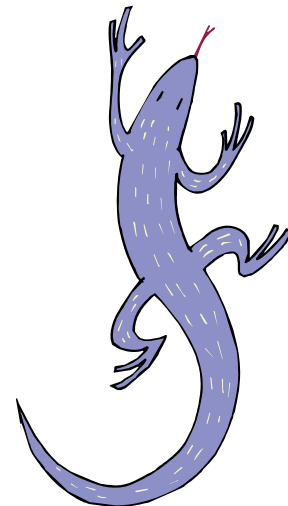
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## Real Estate Values in Oracle Foothills

Comparative Market Analysis for Oracle Foothills Estates 2, 7 and 8, and the unsubdivided property on the major streets of our subdivisions (i.e. Genematas Drive).

"Sold" properties have closed within the last 6 months.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Price/Foot</u>	<u># Properties</u>	<u>Price</u>
Active	\$191-\$282	3	\$384,900-\$925,000
Sold	\$166-\$224	8	\$355,000-\$725,000



*Joni Kalis*

# Speeding

So many things crowd our mind as we scurry about our busy lives. Too often we are preoccupied while driving and forget about how fast we are going. Speeding down First Avenue with it's long, wide straightaway is one thing, but on our narrow, curvy neighborhood roads, excess speeds present hazards to everyone, people and wild-life alike. Neighbors living on the side road off of Agave Drive have mentioned that they are always fearful of making the turn onto the main Agave due to the drivers speeding along this section. One neighbor wrote:



*“ . . . just wanted to mention one concern and that is the excessive speed on Agave Dr. Specifically from Yvon to 1st Ave. I live on the "Private Drive" Agave and turning on to the main Agave is scary. Looking to the left there is a curve and a hill and people come over that hill so fast. We have almost got nailed several times and there have been close calls with our children riding bikes and stuff. I would like people to be aware of the danger this is causing. Anyway, maybe it can be mentioned in the newsletter before somebody really gets hurt or God forbid, worse.”*

**Please slow down while driving in the neighborhood. Only you can prevent speed humps!!**

## OFNA Financial Statement

12/1/05—2/28/06

Beginning Cash	\$9074
Total Income	252
Total Expense	528
Ending Cash	\$8799

*Complete details are available to all members from the Treasurer, Scott Odom.*

## E-MAIL LIST

OFNA maintains a neighborhood e-mail list to keep neighbors informed of events in a timely manner. If you have an item of general interest that you would like sent out, or for any change to your e-mail address, please contact **the list administrators**:

**Carole DeAngeli**  
 ejdeangeli@earthlink.net  
 690-1107

**Kitty Schwartz**  
 k3952S@aol.com  
 888-8288

## Neighborhood Watch Update

After much prodding, the county has finally installed the last of the four Neighborhood Watch signs at each of the four entrances to the Oracle Foothills neighborhood. Twelve slightly smaller size NW signs (produced by neighbor and sign business owner, Jude Cook) were purchased by private donations (7 signs) and OFNA (5 signs). Eleven of these smaller signs have been installed at key areas around the neighborhood, and one is held in reserve for future use. This makes a total of 15 installed signs.

Concerned neighbors called 911 about several suspicious strangers in the area, but we are all thankful that there haven't been any break-ins or serious problems lately.

Everyone is reminded and encouraged to call 911 to report anything or anyone that might seem out of place or suspicious, and then to report that incident to President Jay DeAngeli (ejdeangeli@earthlink.net), and to the appropriate Block Leader. Even if 9 out of 10 calls don't uncover anything wrong, that tenth call might just be the one that will save someone grief and problems!

If you don't know who your Block Leader is, you can call Area Leader **Liz Sherwood at 888-9279.**

*Liz Sherwood*

ORACLE FOOTHILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Tucson, AZ 85740

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**Membership**  
Scott Odom

**Newsletter Editor**  
Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107

**Parliamentarian**  
Kim Peterson

**Web Page Administrator**  
Kim Peterson