

Desert Dwellers

Volume 11, Issue 39

September 2008



SAVE THE DATE

OFNA Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 13

8:30 am to Noon

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

665 W. Roller Coaster Rd.

All residents of Oracle Foothills are cordially invited and encouraged to attend the Neighborhood Association's one yearly meeting.

- You will have a chance to meet your neighbors over coffee and pastries starting at 8:30am.
- The meeting will bring you up-to-date on all neighborhood and association activities and issues.
- There will be some interesting speakers on several subjects.
- Board members will be elected for the upcoming year.
- Brochures and informational material will be available on a variety of subjects.
- An open forum will allow questions and participation by all in attendance.
- All paid members will also receive drawing tickets for some exciting prizes.
- All attendees will receive a special gift!

New Dues Announced

The OFNA Board of Directors announces that the association dues for the upcoming 2009 fiscal year will be \$45.00. This is a \$5.00 reduction from the previous amount. The fiscal year runs from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. Those members who have already paid their dues for the new year will receive a refund from the Treasurer.

With the onslaught of increasing prices for virtually everything we must buy, the Board of Directors thought it would be a nice gesture to give you a little break.

Dues for 2009

\$45



**The PICNIC is coming!
The PICNIC is coming!**

**Saturday, October 25
Noon to Dark
In the wash next to
220 E. Yvon Dr.
(the Chocolate House)**

This is the BIG EVENT in the neighborhood!

**There'll be good food, good friends and fun
for the kids!**

**Bring a potluck dish to share.
OFNA will provide everything else.**

HELP!

**Your help is needed to make the picnic a success.
If you can help with planning, setup, cleanup, decorating,
entertainment, greeting, children's activities or if you have
any ideas on what else you'd like to have, please contact :
Camille Zachmeier, 404-5770, camille@win3realty.com.**

**It takes a lot of work to put on this event and the more hands we have,
the lighter the load for each.**

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat



The National Wildlife Federation has been working for over 70 years to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Jesse Wood, OFNA Board member, has been a long-time member of NWF and would like to introduce their excellent programs to our neighborhood. NWF encourages us to create a friendly and safe haven for wildlife through our gardening choices and methods.

Why should I create a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat?

- It's fun! Watching wildlife in action can be fun and relaxing for everyone. Your habitat may attract beautiful songbirds, butterflies, frogs, and other interesting wildlife for viewing from your very own window.
- Curb appeal! Replacing grass lawns with native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will increase the beauty of your property and provide a nurturing refuge for wildlife.
- Bring wildlife home! Restoring habitats where commercial and residential development have degraded natural ecosystems can be your way of giving back to wildlife.
- Eco-friendly! Gardening practices that help wildlife, like reducing the use of chemicals, conserving energy and water, and composting also help to improve air, water and soil quality.
- Community! Gardening for wildlife can help you share your love of wildlife with your neighbors and help them get involved in creating a home for wildlife.

All you need to do is provide elements from each of the following areas:

- **Food Sources.** For example: Native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, nectar
- **Water Sources.** For example: Birdbath, pond, water garden, stream
- **Places for Cover.** For example: Thicket, rockpile, birdhouse
- **Places to Raise Young.** For example: Dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting box, pond
- **Sustainable Gardening.** For example: Mulch, compost, rain garden, chemical-free fertilizer

Entire neighborhoods or communities can also be certified if there is enough individual participation. There are fewer than 30 communities nationwide that have received this certification, and one is right here in Tucson. You can read about it at:

<http://www.sweetwaterinthefoothillscwh.org/>

You can get more information about both the Backyard and Community wildlife habitat certification programs at the NWF website:

<http://www.nwf.org/backyard/>

<http://www.nwf.org/community/>

At the OFNA Annual Meeting on September 13th, there will be a short presentation on the Backyard Certification program.

At the Crossroads *Bonnie and Thomas Fatato*

Talking to Bonnie Fatato, it's obvious that she loves her work. She beams when talking about Crossroads, the adult care facility that she runs with her husband Thomas, and about her residents and employees. Crossroads has quietly served its elderly residents at 5242 N. Genematas since the Fall of 1994. The Fatatos have expanded their business to three additional facilities to the northwest of us, off of Las Lomas Drive, a fact of which Bonnie is very proud.

Thomas Fatato is the ninth child in a family of eleven, growing up in the Tarrytown, NY area. Thomas' father and his brother married sisters and purchased the palatial, 45-room Harriman estate, which they divided up for the two growing families.

After being involved in his family's brewery and beer distribution business, Thomas and Bonnie came to Arizona for a business opportunity with a friend. When that didn't work out, the Crossroads facility was begun.

Bonnie and her sister were raised by their great grandparents. She and Thomas have seven children



Two of the residents at Crossroads

and 13 grandchildren, ranging in age from 15 down to 1. Most of the family lives here in Arizona, but one son and the newest granddaughter are in NY state.

Currently the Genematas house is home to ten women residents, the maximum capacity. Bonnie is proud of the fact that all of their employees stay with them for years, the result of good pay and benefits.

The residents of Crossroads are always happy to have visitors and would welcome anyone from the neighborhood. In response to a question about how the neighbors can get involved or be of service to the residents, Bonnie said, "however their spirit moves them." Little gifts of food, flowers or just your time to say hello would be greatly appreciated. At Christmas, some holiday spirit would bring joy to all at Crossroads. If your church or other group does caroling, keep Crossroads in mind.



Crossroads on Genematas

Carole DeAngeli

Long-time neighbor now a “social entrepreneur”

It's been an interesting couple of years for our neighbor, Suzanne Ellenbogen. Suzanne has lived in the neighborhood since 1993, and served on the OFNA board in the early years as treasurer and president. With her husband, Roger Felty, she sports 2 ½ dogs. Maybe you have seen her trying to walk Fred, Ginger and Chloe (the pint-sized ½) in the mornings. *(She assures me that she regularly uses the newly installed doggy bags.)*

Suzanne became a certified professional coach in 2006 after owning her own accounting firm for nearly 20 years. Now she coaches adults to achieve greater potential, and is proud to be a founding member of Touch Point Connection, Inc. (TPC). Touch Point Connection is a nonprofit “social venture” organization that offers free coaching to underserved teens.

TPC is launching the program right in our backyard! Here's a bit more about the organization from Suzanne.

Working with Amphitheater High School and Youth on Their Own, TPC provides coaching to teens that need additional support to be successful. Coaching supports them in completing their education and to get life and workplace skills they will need.

With coaching, teens identify that they have choices, opportunities, and possibilities to empower themselves and build a future based on capabilities they never thought they had.

The adults who become volunteers find that the commitment is doable and compelling. The 45 minutes-a-week meeting with their teen fits into busy schedules. They see firsthand huge returns for teens who were struggling to stay in school. And as a plus they learn new techniques to bring into their own workplaces and homes.

The program is unique because:
Teens receive free coaching support during high school. Coaching support continues after high

school graduation to support their successful transition into continuing education and/or job training.

TPC trains community volunteers to use professional coaching methods. Each volunteer serves as a coach to a teen. Volunteers meet with their teen weekly, on the school site during the school day. *(This is where you fit in.)*

Professionally trained and certified coaches train and support the community volunteers.



Our nation's dropout crisis seems unstoppable. The statistics on what it costs us as taxpayers are frightening. Many dropouts are *capable* kids who simply stop coming to school when life becomes overwhelming or school no longer makes sense to them. Some fall behind and lose all hope of catching up.

Many find themselves in homes filled with drugs or alcohol.

Many have no steady adult role model.

Many teens live in poverty or unstable environments.

Some already hold jobs to help feed the family or to pay the rent.

Many set no goals because they see no future.

I could go on and on about the benefits of the program for these teens *AND* for our community volunteers. I hope you will visit the Touch Point Connection website to find out about more about the program and, if interested, how to become a volunteer.

Training dates for new volunteers are **August 29th and September 16th**. Choose one to attend and find out more.

Our website is www.touchpointconnection.com or I can be reached for questions via email at SEllenbogen@touchpointconnection.com or by phone at **888-8905**.

Suzanne Ellenbogen

CAPTURING CARBON DIOXIDE



From the Spring of 2006 until June of this year, I was fortunate enough to work as an R&D consultant for a small firm here in Tucson. I've been doing similar work my entire career. The company was Global

Research Technologies or just GRT.

The goal of the research work at GRT was to develop a system for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

It was in 1896, that a Swedish chemist, Svant Arrhenius, suggested that the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could substantially influence temperatures at the earth's surface. He labeled this the "greenhouse effect". But Arrhenius wasn't the first to suggest such a correlation. Antoine Lavoisier, a French chemist, had made the same suggestion in 1789. So however you feel about global warming, don't blame or thank Al Gore. He's just the newest kid on the block.

Worldwide, about 30 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are released into the air each year. We Americans contribute about six billion of those tons. But that's not the bad news. The bad news is that unless that CO₂ is absorbed by the oceans or by forests and other vegetation, those 30 billion tons will remain in the atmosphere for roughly 100 years. Clearly if this is a problem, we should stop putting all that stuff up there. And major efforts are underway to equip electrical power plants and other industrial sources of carbon dioxide emissions with "pollution capture" equipment. We did something similar in the United States over twenty years ago when acid rain from sulphur dioxide emissions was recognized as an environmental issue.

But only about 30% of carbon dioxide emissions comes from "fixed" sources such as power plants, steel mills and other industrial facilities. Another 30% comes from the transportation sector - cars, trucks, trains, ships and aircraft. If you drive a typical passenger car, your contribution is about one pound of CO₂ per mile driven or roughly five tons a year.

Don't even ask about your private jet! And if you had a trailer on your family car to collect the CO₂, you would have about 300 lbs. of the stuff to take to the recycle center every time you filled the gas tank. Think what that would do to your mpg!

All this is where GRT comes in. The company announced in April of 2007 that it had been successful in demonstrating a prototype system to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - from air anywhere in the world. Carbon dioxide from car exhausts in Bangkok, Thailand could be removed in Northern Canada or Southern Argentina. Unlike wind farms, tree farms or solar power, the GRT air-capture system will function 24 hours a day as long as there is even a slight breeze. ABC-TV included the GRT story in its 2007 Earth Day special. More recently, air-capture was cited in the July 14, 2008, issue of TIME magazine as one of the most promising technological solutions to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. The article included a photo of the prototype GRT device and an honest assessment of a major dilemma: what to do with the literally billion of tons of CO₂ that would need to be captured just to keep even with current worldwide emissions. Currently, the most discussed "disposal" method is to bury or sequester the captured CO₂ in underground natural reservoirs. But that's another story.

My role at GRT was complete when the air-capture prototype was successfully handed off from the research team to the engineering group in June. Their challenge is to build a full-scale system that will capture one ton of carbon dioxide per day. You can read more about GRT at the company's website www.grestech.com. The Newsroom tab cites numerous articles about the company from both technical journals and the popular press. And the CFO at GRT will accept checks for \$10 million to \$50 million to keep things rolling. Thanks for listening to my story.

*George W. Grimm
431 E. Yvon Drive*

Farewell to Myron

Oracle Foothills lost a good friend and neighbor with the passing of Myron Morris, a longtime resident of Genematas Drive. Myron was a retired physician from Boston who was active in his neighborhood and community, most especially with TIHAN—the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network. Myron will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



OFNA Needs YOU!

A few openings on the OFNA Board of Directors afford **you** the opportunity to be of service to your neighborhood. Directors are asked to invest only a few hours a year to attend the quarterly board meetings. More commitment to projects and activities is most welcome, but not mandatory. All OFNA members are eligible to serve on the board. If you would like to offer your name in candidacy, or would just like more information, please contact:

Jay DeAngeli
690-12107
ejdeangeli@earthlink.net

Trees for Tucson



Planting season will be here soon. TEP customers are eligible to buy native or desert-adapted shade trees from the Trees for Tucson program for a very small fee. Here is a link to the application form:

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/docs/tftapp.pdf>

You can purchase up to 2 trees for \$8 each, including delivery. If you don't have access to the internet to print this form, please call me and I'll be happy to print a copy for you. This is an excellent program and I hope you're able to take advantage of it. Trees will help eat up that carbon dioxide too!

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107

The Queen Reigns

We are entering our most active butterfly season in Tucson and you have no doubt noticed the growing numbers of the delicate flyers. The Monarch is by far the most famous butterfly in America, renown for its legendary migrations. Although we occasionally see Monarchs on their way through Tucson, they are not common here as in many other parts of the country. However, we do have an abundance of the Monarch's near relative, the Queen (*Danaus gilippus*). The Queen, Monarch and Soldier butterflies are collectively known as the milkweed butterflies based on their preference for the milkweed plants as the larval food. The chemicals in the milkweed make the caterpillars as well as the adults very distasteful to predators. Even the unrelated Viceroy, which mimics the Queen's colors, is avoided by predators.

You can recognize the Queens by their rich chocolate brown color, white dots in the black wing margins, on the black body as well as on the upper hind wing. Lacking are the black vein outlines on the upper wings, which are distinctive on the Monarch.



Queen on Cosmos

To attract Queens to your yard, plant milkweed, cosmos, ageratum (*Ageratum corymbosum*, floss flower), eupatorium (*Eupatorium greggii*), caesalpinia (Mexican bird of paradise) or heliotrope. Tohono Chul and Desert Survivors are good places to shop for butterfly plants.

ORACLE FOOTHILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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