

*Echoes from the Canyon* is a regular publication of the Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists (SCVN).

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## President's Message

### Naturalist Trip

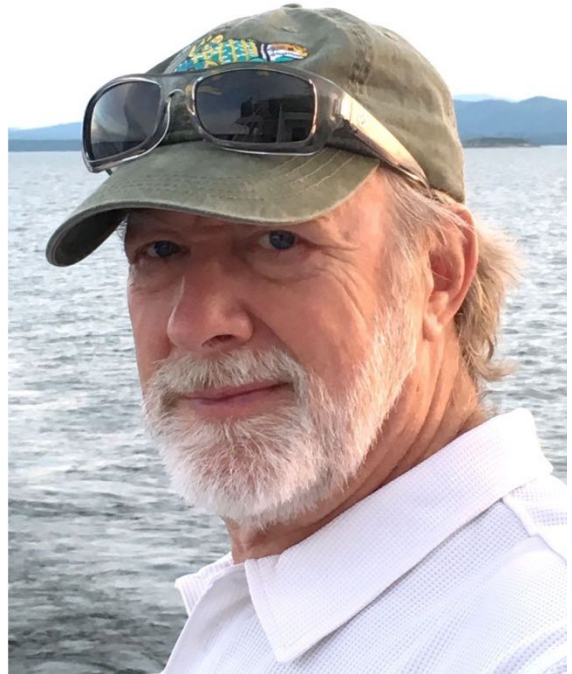
Welcome to the first issue of *Echoes from the Canyon*, a publication written by members of the Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists.

We are an all-volunteer organization whose purpose is to provide education that aids the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest in, among many other things, promoting understanding, appreciation, and respect for the natural environment.

We do this through many activities, including outdoor classes for children in kindergarten through grade six and by providing walks, hikes, and demonstrations — for both children and adults — in and about the wonders of this beautiful Canyon.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. If you'd like to learn more about our organization, please [click here](#). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer naturalist yourself, you will find more information [here](#).

See you in the Canyon!



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## A Charismatic Cuckoo

### Naturalist Amy

Watch this wonderful close up of a Greater Roadrunner near the SCVN elementary teaching ramada. The kids are always thrilled at the sight of this regular visitor—or sometimes visitors—who also appear to follow some groups on their nature walks.



Click image to play an 18 second roadrunner video by Naturalist Steven.

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## The SCVN Book Review

*Catalina Mountains: A Guide Book with Original Paintings*

Text and Watercolors by Frank S. Rose

Review by Naturalist Rebecca, SCVN Librarian

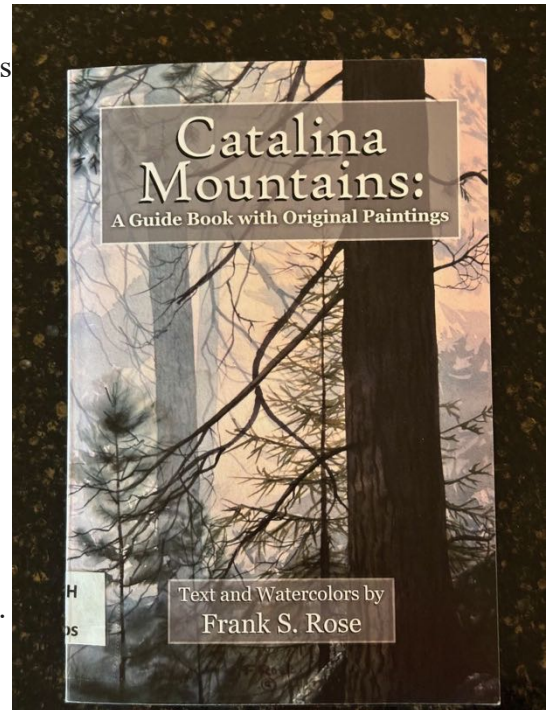
How fortunate we are to live in Arizona, rated one of the top three biologically diverse states. The Santa Catalinas have the most diverse plant species of any of the Sky Islands. In this book, Frank Rose describes and paints the richness and beauty of the Catalina Mountains from the base of the valley to every trail climbing up the mountain.

Each trailhead has its own unique story to tell, with a cameo of the flowers found at various times of the year. Each page is framed in his contemplative writing, paired specifically with a particular season he chose to paint. I found myself immersed in the description and watercolors he chose along the trail.

To quote the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man.”

Next time you walk a trail within the Catalina Mountains, you may find that although you walk the same path, your impression of it has changed because of the imagery and prose of Frank Rose.

You can find a copy of this book in the Pima County Library.



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## February Public Interpretation Spotlights

Below are interviews with naturalists about just two of our amazing programs. Come join us!

### Ancient Cultures Table

Fridays 9 to 11 a.m.

Interview of Naturalist Ann

### How long have you been doing this PI event?

When I was in SCVN training, I found out about the Ancient Cultures table and asked if I could join. Later I eagerly volunteered to be the coordinator; this is my second year.

### Why is this subject matter of interest to you?

I grew up in Tucson. My mother worked at the U of A and was allowed to take classes. She took as many classes as she could from Dr. Emil Haury, the archaeologist whose fame stems from work that he did beginning in the 1930s at Snaketown, a large Hohokam village southeast of Phoenix. Dr. Haury's lectures were a frequent topic at the dinner table. After taking the class, my mother's idea of a fun summer vacation was touring archaeological sites in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, which



we did almost every summer. My brother became an archaeologist. Even though I had a career in public health, I guess I was destined to return to archaeology.

**What is your favorite part of providing this event?**

The best part of working the Ancient Cultures table is talking to people who, when they first start listening, I think they have no real interest in Hohokam culture. But after talking with us and seeing the exhibits, they are absolutely fascinated by how these people lived and thrived in the Sonoran Desert. When I see someone walk away from the table smiling and pensive, I know we have done our job.

**What is the most interesting/odd/funny/unusual question you've ever been asked?**

Many visitors want to know what tribe the Hohokam belong to. They are fascinated to learn that archaeologists use the word Hohokam to designate the culture; it is not the name the people took for themselves, and they are not a tribe. We have no idea what these people called themselves, because they left no written record (other than petroglyphs). Based on other indigenous people in the US, they likely called themselves "The People," in their own language.



**Naturalists Charlotte and Tim pose at the Ancient Cultures table. Tim and his wife, Hannelore, created most of its amazing and detailed displays. (Photo by Naturalist Cathy)**



**Saguaro: A Desert Giant**  
Every other Sunday at 10 a.m.  
Interview of Naturalist Bev

**What's your activity involve?**

This is a one-half-mile easy walk on the Bajada Nature Loop. We start at the Visitor Center, make nine stops, talk about saguaro cacti, and include lots of fun facts. The entire walk takes about an hour.

**How long have you been doing this PI event?**

This is my second year.

**Why is this subject matter of interest to you?**

Saguaros are amazing plants that only live in a very small part of the world. I've been fascinated by them ever since I saw my first one.

**What is your favorite part of providing this event?**

Meeting people who are truly curious about nature—especially visitors who are seeing saguaros for the first time.

**What's the most interesting/odd/funny/unusual question you've ever been asked?**

Not a question, but once when fellow naturalist Kare was on the walk, she told me about a person who didn't like the arms on a saguaro in his yard and was considering cutting them all off.



**Naturalist Bev talks with the public about why saguaro arms always grow up ... unless they are damaged by cold weather. (Photo by Naturalist Cathy)**

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## Upcoming Continuing Education Topics for Naturalists

If you become a volunteer naturalist, you will be able to attend fascinating presentations taught by experts in their fields. Here are examples scheduled for this spring:

- Geologist Bob Scarborough will talk about the interior of the earth and how Sabino Canyon was formed.
  - Jared Suydam, the Environmental Education Coordinator for Pima County Conservation and Land Resources will present Nature and the Force of Change.
  - Rock Art in the American Southwest, by Steven J. Phillips
  - Saguaros, by Bill Peachey
  - Sabino Canyon Archaeology Survey Results, by Sara Anderson and Allen Dennoyer
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## More Great Events at the Canyon

A complete list of this month's activities and events is at the end of the newsletter.

### Family Fun Hikes

Led by Naturalist Adora-Marie

Last Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. year round

Family Fun Hikes are open to families with strollers, baby backpacks, and all ages who want to explore nature. Each month has a fun theme, such as February's Hearts in Nature, March's Spring into Nature, and April's Wildflower Hike. Hikes will be held in Sabino Canyon and Mt. Lemmon. This is a fantastic way for youngsters to explore nature in a safe and educational manner in easy naturalist-led hikes.



### **Quail Corner for Kids**

Led by the Bird Brains

Second and fourth Sunday of the month, 9 to 11 a.m.

This is a very hands-on, informational event to bring the birds of Sabino Canyon to life for kids of all ages. There is a Match a Bird game with prizes, Beaks and Feet activity, fascinating bird facts, and a naturalist-led bird walk every 30 minutes. If you like birds, you will love to join us.

### **Stop 8 Chat**

Every Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the end of March

Meet with naturalists at shuttle stop 8. Each week has a different and exciting topic. So far visitors have learned about mountain lions and black bears, minerals of Sabino Canyon, saguaro cacti, predators and prey, and raptors of the Catalina Mountains.



Click image to watch Naturalist Kathe's magnetite demo. Magnetite is one of the five minerals found in the rocks of Sabino Canyon. Video by Naturalist Gordon.

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**Marty's Pix of the Day**  
**Gray Bird Grasshopper**  
Photo and Article by Naturalist Marty



The Gray Bird Grasshopper—*Schistocerca nitens*—is one of several “bird grasshopper” species of the genus *schistocerca*, so named because their large size (almost three inches long) approaches that of a small bird. They typically are solitary and don't swarm like their locust cousins, but occasionally can occur in dense concentrations that damage crops and native plant species. They are native to the southwest and Mexico.

[Click here](#) to see more of Marty's Pix of the Day in the SCVN Photo Gallery.

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## Hikes, Walks, and Events for February and March

Click on any event title for further details

- [Hydrogeology Walk](#)  
February 15, March 1, and March 15 at 9:00 a.m.

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- [Ask a Naturalist Table](#)  
February 15, February 22, March 1, and March 8 at 10:00 a.m.

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- [Crawler Chat at Stop 8](#)  
February 15, February 22, and March 8 at 10:00 a.m.

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- [Cellphone Camera Photowalk](#)  
February 16 at 7:05 a.m.

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- [Geology Table](#)  
February 17 and February 24 at 10:00 a.m.

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- [Mountain Lion Table](#)  
February 17 and March 10 at 10:00 a.m.

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- [Plant and Bird Walk](#)  
February 18, February 25, March 4, and March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

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- [Skulls and Pelts, Wildlife of Sabino Table](#)  
February 18, February 25, March 4, and March 11 at 9:30 a.m.

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- [Mt Lemmon Nature Hike](#)  
February 19 at 9:00 a.m.

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- [Panning for Garnets](#)  
February 20, February 27, March 6, and March 13 at 10:00 a.m.

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- [Friday Trail Hike](#)  
February 21 and March 7 at 7:45 a.m.

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- [Ancient Cultures Table](#)  
February 21, February 28, March 7, and March 14 at 9:00 a.m.

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- [Family Fun Hike](#)  
February 22 10:00 a.m.

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- [Saguaro: A Desert Giant](#)  
February 23 and March 9 at 10:00 a.m.
  - [Let's Explore Sabino Hikes](#)  
February 28 and March 14 at 8:30 a.m.
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*Echoes from the Canyon* is published monthly except July and August by members of the Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists.

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[Sabino Naturalists Website](#)

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