

the Valley View

Cascabel ...hard to find....harder to leave.



Issue #15

An Occasional Cascabel, Arizona Newsletter

September 2022

In this issue

Pat Rudikoff has written about the Oasis and how she and Neal became aware of it and then their story of enormous commitment to tropical birds in need of care. Katie Talbott has written of the organizational changes occurring with Saguaro Juniper allowing it to find its sea legs and thrive. Meet the people involved. Whether it is the Oasis or Saguaro Juniper, **It Takes A Village.**



Going back to four years before 9/11, Neal & I began our passion for parrots. It was the year our youngest daughter got married and I literally was suffering empty nest syndrome and looking for a new kitten. Neal said, "Let's not get a cat, I don't want to deal with litter boxes. Why don't you get a bird. Birds are easy." And I said, "The only bird I ever wanted was a Cockatoo or a large Macaw". And he said, "Whatever you want!" So instead of a new bracelet for my birthday gift, he thought he was getting off easy by getting me Zeus! I guess we know who had the last laugh there and so the love affair began.

Over the ensuing two years we accumulated a flock of four large cockatoos. Since it is possible for them to live as long as a human being, and since our grown kids did not want to inherit them, I began researching options for where they could live out their lives when we could no longer care for them. I found "The Oasis" online and sent for their newsletter. The passion and caring for the birds expressed in the newsletter made me think this might be a good option, so I joined, set up a sponsorship, and mailed off a check. After 9/11, we decided to take a short vacation to Arizona and visit The Oasis before I continued to send donations. Well, obviously, we loved what we experienced when we got there. Each bird had a name and a story – some stories a little sad, some downright tragic. The founder, Sybil Erden, had started taking in rescues in her home in Phoenix, and in 1997 the Oasis became an official 501 (c)(3). As the number of birds she cared for grew to be too many for her home on an acre in Phoenix, she shopped for a property to move the flock into. She found Cascabel.





Richie and Tanya

Last summer, writes Janet Trumbule, Oasis director, we were notified of a female Congo African Grey in a private zoo who had lost her bonded mate. She was kept in a windowless space and had become aggressive. The zoo released her to the Oasis. But in the process, the family who was to transport her fell in love with her. The daughter bonded with her and she spent much time uncaged which can often include damage to furniture, messes and loud vocalizations. But the daughter was to go on the road for a job and it meant that Richie would be caged for long periods. The family decided the Oasis was the best option.

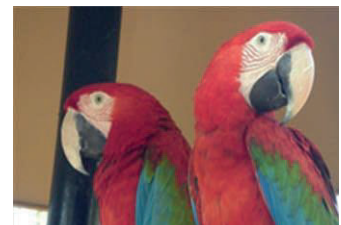
She had a hard time adjusting to the large aviary flock and the other Greys picked on her. Janet took her home and bonded with her. She was later introduced to a small aviary. It took her a week just to make her way out the open door. Tanya Adams has bonded with her and says she loves watching her confidence build. "It takes time for these birds to find their place in the flock. Since I've been at the Oasis I've come to feel that parrots should NOT be pets. They need to be left wild. I love being here at the Oasis with all my heart. It is my passion."

During our visit we met many of the residents and fell in love with quite a few. We wanted to do more to help and volunteered to come out for ten days. Little did we know that this would become a lifetime commitment for both of us and we'd return time and time again to help. We washed dishes according to a strict, thorough process to clean, rinse, disinfect, rinse again. Then rinse once more before refilling each bowl with special pellets developed for the species, plus a mix of chopped fresh fruits and vegetables as well as nuts for a much-loved treat. We scrubbed cages and floors, played with these magnificent creatures, and spent hours cutting up pieces of wood, boring holes through it, and stringing it onto stainless steel chain for the birds to play with. While our own pampered angels have a plethora of toys, it is nearly impossible to keep 800 birds constantly supplied with the toys we want them to have to enrich their existence.

Eventually, we were invited to serve on the Board and for more than 18 years have continued to serve. Back then there were probably about 300 parrots of many varieties, most living in galvanized-wire cages outside. We sprayed them when they were hot and covered the cages with blue tarps when it got chilly to protect them. Trays of food and water were carried by hand out to each cage every morning after the bowls had been pulled and carefully washed and disinfected from the day before. Everything was done by hand – and in the beginning, except for our volunteer visits, was being done by two or three people. Over the next few years, we acquired quite a few more parrots, some ducks and geese and chickens, a few cows and bulls for a while. Then a few horses, some goats and fortunately a wonderful support base which allowed us to add staff. We built aviaries, enclosed the outdoor cages, provided heat and misting, and vastly improved our ability to provide a loving, stable environment for hundreds of parrots facing homelessness or euthanasia. We still find it impossible to not fall in love with these exotic feathered beauties.



Neal Rudikoff & buddies



Greenwing Macaws

We did find it necessary to back off from taking additional animal species to stay true to our mission. There are still a few stragglers in residence who will remain for their lifetimes. We are now home to about 800 exotic parrots who require care 365 days a year, no holidays – and our dedicated staff generously accepts this responsibility. They are a truly amazing group of individuals whose unselfish dedication never ceases to impress me. Most live on site as we provide housing and utilities as part of our employment package for those who are not local residents. Maintaining staff is challenging as no one gets rich providing bird care. The hours are long, vacations short, the work is hard, and while the rewards can be phenomenal for the right person, they can prove insufficient for others. Living out in the desert makes a social life very limited and not everyone can adapt to the challenges of such a lifestyle. Those who do are dedicated animal loving beings who can put the well-being of the parrots at the front of their priority list. We tend to get wonderful people from very diverse backgrounds who become family for each other. We often call it “the hardest job you’ll ever love”. It’s not always easy to find such people, whether as a volunteer or as full or part time staff. When we are short staffed, the work is even more daunting, but all pitch in and do their absolute best! We also have members of the Cascabel Community who have joined our staff in one capacity or another and we are happy to speak with anyone interested in becoming involved.

As a bona fide 501(c)(3) organization we rely solely on contributions from caring animal lovers and are constantly awed by the generosity of our supporters who make it possible to provide for these incredible, intelligent, sentient beings.. Our philosophy is that every donation, no matter how much, counts, as every creature in our care counts. Years ago, we were at The Oasis for a Board Meeting when we received word that our own

beloved Moluccan Cockatoo Phoebe had died. In her honor, the Oasis started the Phoebe Fund - two small children (4 and 7) in Pennsylvania heard the story from our newsletter and did fund raising among their friends to contribute to a fund drive for the Phoebe Aviary (for female cockatoos). They sent first \$25.00, and then \$15.00 with a note expressing their sadness about Phoebe and their wish to help. I’m not sure any donation ever touched us more.

Blue &
Gold & a
Scarlet
Macaw
in the
Macaw
Aviary



In the Phoebe Aviary – Cockatoo Girls
Moluccan and 2 Umbrella

The many “special needs” birds really stole our hearts. Some abused by their people, some hurt or injured in transit during smuggling them in. Many have little or no social skills or have suffered physical and/or emotional abuse resulting in undesirable psychological behaviors. The Oasis is often all that stands between life and death for these endangered companion birds. I am often amazed at the capacity of some to forgive and learn some level of trust within our environment. I cried the first time I met BJ, a Moluccan Cockatoo like my Ajax. He had lived in a cockatiel cage (24” x 24” x 24”) for 17 years which had to be

cut to get him out when he was brought to The Oasis. His muscles were atrophied, and he was afraid of anything and everyone. We had to build a special cage for him with platforms instead of perches for his poor deformed feet. He shook with fear if someone approached his cage.

Over the years, he somehow was able to forgive and learn to trust some of the staff, and he would actually dance to his favorite songs and play catch with me when I would come out to visit! His spirit has always given me hope that we can at least save some. I shed tears when he passed away a few years ago after many years at the Oasis.

As a true Sanctuary, The Oasis does not breed, adopt out, sell, or trade birds. Once a bird enters the doors of The Oasis, they are guaranteed a lifetime of care and compassion. We assess each individual bird to provide optimum care including a healthy diet, medical care, opportunities for flight and flock socialization in natural aviary environments. Our first priority is, and will remain the long-term care, well-being and safety of the birds entrusted to our care. Our first Sponsored Bird was Miss Sally. She was a Moluccan hen and took a fall in her cage one day and broke her neck. When the call came into our New York office, Neal and I cried. She had become “Our” Miss Sally.

We have two certified Avian Veterinarians on the Board who provide care, advice and medications on an ongoing basis, working with us to keep costs reasonable. One is in Phoenix and one in Tucson. Vet care of course represents a large portion of our budget.

Over the years our support base has grown, and so have our volunteers. A continual stream of volunteers join us for varying time frames. We also have guest accommodations on site. We will support their needs as best as we can including grocery trips to town and of course training for the assigned tasks. Many come back year after year and become part of the Oasis family which is how Neal and I came to Cascabel.



Some of the staff, a few missing, and somehow Sue got in there!

As the largest permanent exotic bird care facility in the country, we are currently in desperate need of upgrading our facility. The 40+ year old buildings have served well but have deteriorated from climate and age. Our staging building for food preparation and storage is too small to support all the daily functions. It is time for a new investment for our birds and their support staff. Our Capital Campaign of recent years has provided a new aviary which offers significant upgrades. Next will be a modern service center which will include a commercial kitchen, dishwashing and sterilizing equipment. It will also have a laundering center, rest rooms, a break room and increased storage. The design will include solar collectors, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling. All these upgrades will allow the staff to spend more time with the birds.

Smuggling Exotic Birds

One of the illegal ways these birds are smuggled into this country often threaten their lives. Their flight wings are severely trimmed and they are stuffed into shipments of things like mailing tubes and, if small like Conures, stuck into Coke bottles. They are lucky if they survive, are rescued, and brought to the Oasis.

Neal and I have travelled widely to attend Parrot Conferences and Seminars to promote the Oasis and learn all we can about these tropical birds. We have traveled to rain forests to observe them in the wild to understand their needs, foods and habits to share with the Oasis to enhance the lives of these birds. It has been 20 years since we found our way to Cascabel and the trajectory of our lives has been completely altered. We are so proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization.



Monsoon Glory: When the road becomes the river

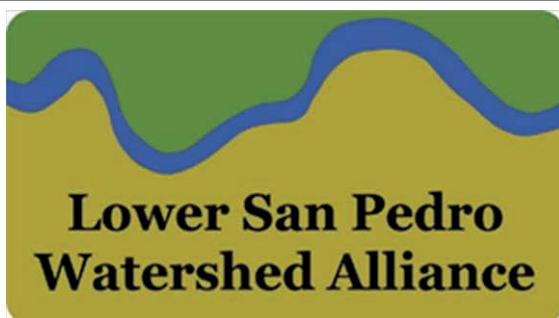
Alex Binford-Walsh



A fabulous August monsoon: Gavin's Crossing

Sue Newman

RAINFALL 2022	Teran	Center	Narrows
jan	0.56	0.43	0.30
feb	0.04	0.24	0.02
mar	0.55	0.39	0.56
apr	0	0	0/00
may	0	0	0.00
jun	2.88	1.34	0.87
jul	3.31	2.60	1.81
aug	5.81	6.09	5.09
total	13.15	10.49	8.65



"Watershed hydrology does not observe political and private property boundaries"

LowerSanPedro.org

On the Land with Saguaro-Juniper

Katie Talbott



Katie celebrating the arrival of the new mesquite pullers.

Photo Sue Newman

The word I hear most often in relation to Saguaro-Juniper these days is “transition.” While true, this doesn’t reflect how I feel in my day-to-day work. “Transition” feels temporary or chaotic, but while many things are changing at Saguaro-Juniper, I personally feel more grounded, rooted, and calm. The more I work with the pastures, the animals, and the people, the more connected I feel, inside and out. Charlie said it well in a conversation with me the other day: “Saguaro-Juniper may not change the world, but we have created something *real* here.”

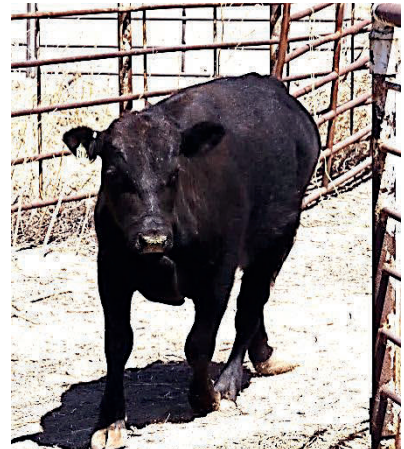
One of the most “real” aspects of our work is the animals themselves, and we have several new members of the herd. After a couple years without a bull, we recently received a yearling bull, Papa Cobre, from The Nature Conservancy. He has been living at El Potrero this summer with mama cows Candela and TwoToo and he is becoming a beloved member of the cow-clan.



John Delberta with Myj's newborn calf.

photo Katie Talbott

Thanks to an unplanned visit from a neighbor's bull last October, four calves were born this summer even without a bull of our own! Candela, Cruella, Myj, and Crockpot all had healthy babies—two girls and two boys. John Delberta continues to provide loving hands-on care for all our animals, as well as skillful management of irrigation at Mason's, and repair of the water line to the Upper Drinker on range.



Papa Cobre

photo Sue Newman

There have been some changes in the people-herd as well. James Callegary, Ann Russell, and Katie Talbott are bringing new energy to an expanded Board of Directors along with Dick Henderson, Pat Corbett, Tom Orum, and Nancy Ferguson. Dick and Pat have passed the torch to James as the new President and Katie as the new Vice President. We are grateful for the continued mentorship of all the S-J long-timers as we feel our way forward.

Many people have been hard at work this spring and summer bringing the pastures at El Potrero (under the care of Sweetwater Center) back to health. Roby Wallace and Lisa Vogel in particular have provided regular irrigation, and many people (including a number of volunteers) pulled weeds, pruned mesquite, and mowed the pastures to encourage a healthy crop of grass.

And finally, there's the goats. Discussion in 2021 about a possible goat-walking program resulted in a community group starting a small goat herd. While the goats are not officially part of Saguaro-



Lisa Vogel decked out in irrigation boots and a trusty scythe.

Photo Sue Newman



Tom and Katie Talbott milking Moxie at Barbara Clark's.

Juniper, they are another opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of pastoral symbiotics here in the valley.

Saguaro-Juniper has always been a team effort, and there's room for many hands to help. We welcome your presence with us as we all deepen our connection to this land, the animals, and each other. If you would like to learn more, make a donation, or help with work parties, contact Katie Talbott at kt.talbott@gmail.com.

"One goes out to meet and enter the land's larger society as a solitary human being, but the reign of the Peaceable Kingdom comes primarily through a covenant-formed human society's way of living in the land."

--Jim Corbett, *Sanctuary for All Life*

The Hermitage Program

The Hermitage Program will have a new place to sojourn this fall--the Caravan. Designed and built by our local craftsmen Erik



Photo Andrew Volz

Revere and David Omick, with help from Andrew Volz and others, the Caravan's unique appearance is inspired by sheep herder trailers and gypsy wagons. Its mobile nature allowed it to be built off site



Photo Edie Cundiff

to minimize disturbance to the land. The basic structure is complete and it is currently awaiting furnishings. It will be

towed to its location on hermitage land this fall and will be ready for sojourners by the end of November. This simple, beautiful structure with its multiple 'wings' for shade and air flow, will provide many years of service for the Hermitage Program, sheltering people seeking inner contemplation and deeper connection with the land. Watch the Cascabel Conservation Association website this fall for info about how to reserve time to stay there.

www.cascabelconservation.org



Erik and David

Erik Revere and David Omick designed and built the Caravan with help from visiting Andrew Volz. Founding Hermitage member, Daniel Baker, in

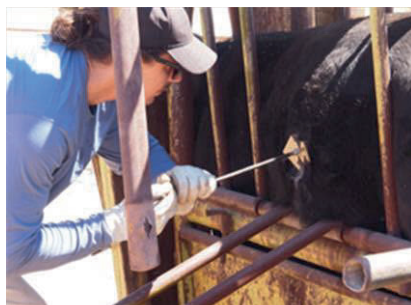
collaboration with Jim Corbett, David Omick and Pearl Mast fleshed out and fully maintained the solitary retreat program for years. It is now beautifully managed by Susan Tollefson and Katie Talbott.



Daniel Baker



Pat Corbett, Roby Wallace, Nancy Ferguson and Tom Orum ready to hand over the fencing tools



John Delberta branding the new bull
Freeze branding is the most humane way.



Metal man Dave Parsons and his resource yard. One fix after another.



We know how Sue Newman hates Texas gates!



35 miles from town brings on the ingenuity.



Tom Talbott and Roby Wallace planning a cow move on range.



Irrigation line full bore at Mason Fields.

It Takes A Village And A Lot of Infrastructure

Most photos Sue Newman



Chris Eastoe and James Callegary long time SJ supporters. James now President of the SJ Board.



A bitter sweet moment on several levels. One of the last trips to Willcox together for this crew, bringing loved animals to the slaughter house and then a pleasant lunch together. Sue Newman, Woody Hume (our retired herd manager for 8 yrs) Luce Fayolle (a visiting ranch hand from France), Nancy Ferguson and Tom Orum. Indeed, it takes a village.



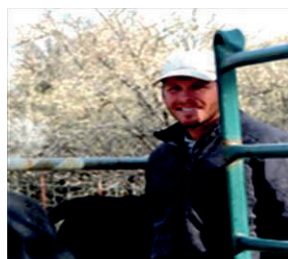
Bob Evans checking the wildlife cameras. Over the years, Bob has spent many hours walking the difficult terrain to check range fencing.



Pat Corbett, cow boss. Another successful cow move from pasture to range for the season.



Tom and Nancy, founding SJ members, on a rangetop hill checking the solar operated water tank that transfers water to the fenceline drinker.



Alex Binford-Walsh, Elna Otter's grandson, has spent countless hours working with Woody digging mesquite, helping to load cows for a move, & walking range fencing. He is now completing work on Environmental Policy at the UofA.

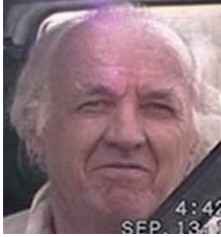


Ann Russell, our new long distance Zoom secretary with occasional visits from Calif for a ride with Pat.



Charlie Thomas, foundation SJ member and herd manager for years with an earlier bull, Braveson in the background..

Valuable SJ Folks We Don't See As Frequently



Dick Henderson, another Foundation SJ member, has held us together all these years, often behind the scenes. He developed the extensive SJ website. His arrival at UofA as Prof. of Anthropology is what brought Tom Orum to us.



Elna Otter, another SJ Foundation shareholder, participant with Jim Corbett and Sanctuary and Jimmy McPherson. They split their time between Cascabel and Canada. Covid enforced further isolation. Elna supports the meat freezer for SJ shareholders.



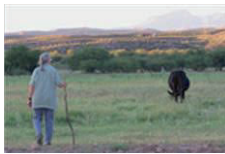
Our New Mexico cowgirl and professional botanist, Yvonne Chauvin, grabs any moment she can to be part of our community and ride and check cows with Pat Corbett.



Nikki Stanton and Brenda Brown... we just sadly lost Nikki. They have been great SJ partners, owning 2 of the mother cows. One summer we had missing cows. One mother cow turned up having parked her baby, jumped the fence and pressed her nose to their window. I NEED WATER. They leapt to her need.



Barbara Clark, long time resident of Cascabel, has been involved in so many aspects of SJ from cow ownership to wild land conservancy. Goats have come back into her pastures.



For years, Jeannine Thomas, SJ Foundation member with Charlie checked cows, dealt with irrigation issues and managed the beef sales.



Cindy Salo, journalist, walker par excellence, said her feet were her best feature! She manages our Sweetwater and SJ Facebook pgs and turns up in Cascabel now and again.



Look alike sisters.
Mama is Cruella.

Photo Katie Talbott



Minimus II

David Omick and Pearl Mast have been at it again after learning all they could from Minimus I. This unique Catamaran meets their 'must have' list:

- offshore capable
- as small as possible for two crew and their provisions for 4-6 weeks at sea
- unsinkable
- quick and economical to build of plywood and epoxy using "instant boat" techniques
- junk rigged



Shake Down Cruise March 22: Successful

Cascabel Community Center

Board of Directors:

Chairman	Barbara Clark	At large	Bob Evans
Treas.	Linda Haynes		Charlie Thomas
Secretary	Fred Weiner		Edie Cundiff
Librarian	Lisa Vogel		

Valley View Sue Newman CCC email bulletin list serv Alan Wilkinson

Valley View Logo - Dave Shreeve and Barbara Clark

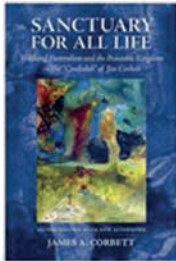
Graphic support: Michael Puttonen

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CASCABEL BOOKS
CRAFT BOOK DESIGN

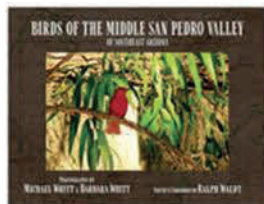
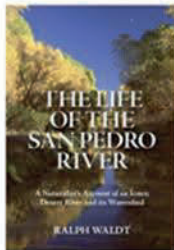


SANCTUARY FOR ALL LIFE: Wildland Pastoralism and the Peaceable Kingdom —The "Cowbalah" of Jim Corbett

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Nikki and Brenda

Pat Rudikoff remembers Nikki Stanton

My heart is so heavy as yesterday a beautiful soul departed this earthly life and I can't count the ways I and so many will miss her. Nikki (left) was a nurse, a friend, a wife, an aunt, a sister, and so much more. She was all about doing for others and with all her health issues always did more than she could to make sure her wife Brenda was loved and safe, that her animals were fed and cared for, that her community had food (constantly stocking the food pantry), that her friends were loved and cared about, that her patients received the best possible care and so much more! Her sense of joy and fun was huge! She was only slightly older than my youngest daughter - way too soon to be taken from us, but the legacy of love and generosity she's left behind will warm me through all the years to come. She and Brenda have had a profound effect on my life and I am forever grateful for their friendship and love! It hurts so badly to say goodbye, and I will love this sister-friend always! Soar with the eagles my Beautiful Friend! ❤️ I was so fortunate to have your loving friendship!

The Nikki Stanton Memorial Food Pantry for Cascabel

If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund in Nikki's name you can leave cash or a check in the jar on the food table in the Community Center.

A Memorial service will be held on Valentine's Day



Oh what a difference a few years make!

Luca has just completed Boot Camp and is now a Marine!

Ariana is about to join the Air Force in the Space Force division, starting sometime in October.

and Sammy got his wings a while ago.




Nina Tuck Crowder

From Diane Tuck - Nina was a bright, beautiful soul, a free and adventurous spirit. We are devastated by the loss of what she could have been. Due to several surgeries Nina became addicted to pain medication. When her doctors cut her off, she couldn't stop. Nina died at age 55 because of illegal drug usage over several years and it was either caused by the use or a byproduct of the use. She literally became another person due to her dependence on pain meds. I found a note she had written. Sums it up "Ever failed? No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better".



Rainbow over the desert...late March storm

Photo Diane Tuck



The Oasis Sanctuary is the forever home to over 700 parrots. Each and every one of these beautiful creatures has a unique personality, strong spirit, a challenging life story and a powerful will to live - often against all odds.

-Waylon
Citron Cockatoo
Joined the flock in 1999

OUR MISSION IS A LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT

Established in 1997, the internationally recognized Oasis Sanctuary is the most highly regarded life-care facility for parrots in the United States. Nestled in the San Pedro Valley in southeastern Arizona, The Oasis provides permanent care, shelter and rehabilitation for parrots and other captive exotic birds.

Our first priority is, and will remain, the well-being and safety of the extraordinary birds entrusted to our care. These intelligent, social, highly complex, exotic animals are guaranteed a lifetime of care and compassion.

The Oasis survives solely on the donations and generous contributions of the public.

Help us, help them. Please donate today!



Visit our website for information on volunteer opportunities, estate planning and planned giving or to make your gift to the birds!
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