



www.CFE7.org

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

520-323-9299

Nov 2009

39th Annual Membership Meeting Review

At our 39th Annual Meeting in May of this year, we coordinated a number of events for our residents. The past two years we have scheduled the Cat 7 Neighborhood Watch prior to the main membership Annual Meeting. The Neighborhood Watch meeting is an annual mandated meeting to keep all participants informed and up to date on their NW area. It gives an opportunity to participants to receive information on current crime trends and proactively insure their neighborhood safety.

We also have included a social hour which is after the NW meeting and prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. This social hour benefits our residents in becoming familiar with each other, as well as their leaders in the NW and Cat 7 Board.

At our 39th Annual this year we were able to have guest speaker Rosey Koberlin, CEO Long Realty. Ms Koberlin spoke about the real estate market in Tucson. She reviewed the effects of the market to the foothills area. Her presentation gave information on the market drivers for 2009 and expectations of the real estate market. Ms Koberlin was presented by Mike Simons, President of Cat 7, a book The Desert Eternal by Connie and Bob Spittler, who are residents of Cat 7.

Also, at this year's Annual Meeting our Service Recognition Award was given to Jerry Boyle, Warren Edminster and June LeClair- Bucko. All served two terms on the Board of Directors and volunteered on numerous committees which benefitted our community. Both June and Jerry were presented with a water color of the Murphey Trust Building done by resident Warren Edminster, while Warren was presented with the book The Desert Eternal.

New nominee's were presented and voted upon. Mary Melbo, Jeff Mundt, and Bob Hungate were accepted as new Board Members. The Architectural, Covenant and Treasury reports were given to the membership. A number of topics were discussed with the membership such as a new mailbox standard and cleaning of the community's medians. The meeting was adjourned at a reasonable hour and residents got to resume socializing after the meeting.

Our 40th Annual meeting will be held May 11th 2010. It is **40 years** that our HOA has been vibrant and diligent in keeping our community what it is. So mark your calendar and please attend this monumental event.



Welcome

We welcome all our new neighbors

Hamid Badghisi &
Kaoura Goshima
1771 E Entrada Doce

Mary Schlossman
5545 Entrada Quince

Mark/JoAnn Schaefer
5415 N Soledad Segunda

Scott/Delphine Knight
5111 N Calle La Cima

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.



Buffet prepared
by Linda Grossman



Covenant Report by Joanne Robinson



Mike Simons, President of Cat 7 HOA
& June LeClair- Bucko, NW Area Leader



Rosie Koberlin, CEO of Long Realty was presented with a complimentary book The Desert Eternal by Connie & Bob Spittler from President Mike Simons.

Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (Dec.2nd,2009, Dates for 2010 are Jan. 6th, Feb. 3rd, Mar. 3rd, Apr. 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July/Aug. *no meetings*, Sept. 1st, Oct 6th, Nov.3rd, Dec.1st)

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 CFE7News@msn.com Deadline for May publication is April 17th and October's is Sept. 17th.

Board Positions change May of each year, verify positions on-line.

2009-2010

CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President	Mike Simons	742-7737
Vice-president	John Bowers	529-3099
Treasurer	Joanne Robinson	615-1938
Secretary to the Board	Jane Hoffmann	323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson	Phil Matthews	299-8886
	John Bowers	529-3099
	Mike Simons	742-7737
	Bob Hungate	531-0825
(Res.)	Jerry Bishop	615-5402

Covenants Committee

Chairperson	Bob Sommerfeld	577-0520
	Mary Melbo	219-1213
	Linda Grossman	299-4718

Welcome Committee

	Linda Grossman	299-4718
	Jeff Mundt	299-5194

Nominating Committee

	Linda Grossman	299-4718
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Media Committee

(Res.)	June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
	Joanne Robinson	615-1938
	Website Mike Simons	742-7737

Neighborhood Watch

June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989

CFE7NW@msn.com

Do you have a story or a photo you would like to share? We would love any stories or photos 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*

Excerpts from Our CC&R's

Selected excerpts from some of the covenant restrictions are listed below.

Refer to your covenant package for complete wording. Attorney fees and court costs incurred by the Association in enforcing these covenants will be recovered from the violator. Disputes between the Association and a property owner may be submitted to final and binding arbitration.

1. Building sites are limited to a single family unit for residential use only.

The premises may not be used to conduct a business.

2. Native growth, including cacti, trees and **ground cover** (including triangle-leaved bursage, range ratany and zinnia) ***must not be removed.***

3. Private driveways must be approved before construction begins.

4. Plans and specifications, including exterior color scheme and roof material, for any building, patio, swimming pool, wall, etc. must be approved in writing and the proposed location staked on site prior to such approval. Changes from approved and specifications which affect the exterior of any structure also require written approval.

No white, off-white, or reflective roofs will be approved.

5. No lot may be used for storage of rubbish, debris or trash.

6. No billboards, real estate or other advertising signs are permitted except occupant nameplate or (during initial construction) the name of the owner or builder. A Real Estate "For Sale" sign only are permitted by law.

7. No exterior lights may be directed toward adjoining lots.

8. Mailboxes and street fixtures must be uniform in shape and design and conform to specifications provided by the Association.

9. Heating and cooling equipment must be concealed in an enclosure and cannot be located on the roof or wall of any structure.

10. Only pollen free Bermuda grass may be grown.

11. Trees must be kept trimmed so as not to interfere with views.

12. Tanks for storage of oil and gas must be buried or enclosed.

13. Clotheslines, woodpiles, mechanical equipment, etc. must be concealed from view of neighboring lots at all times.

14. Garbage/trash cans must remain concealed and may not be placed along street rights-of-way.

15. No dwelling, swimming pool, garage or other structure may be erected closer than 30 feet from the property line.

16. No fence, wall or hedge may exceed 6 feet in height and may not be closer than 30 feet from any property line adjacent to a street. Those adjacent to adjoining lots may be placed up to 20 feet from the property line, but, if closer than 30 feet, are limited to 4 feet in height.

17. No trailer, motor home, camper, camper van, boat, truck (other than pick up), commercial vehicle, etc. may be placed on the property in excess of four 2-day periods per month unless completely concealed in an enclosed structure.

18. No animal or fowl except pets may be kept. No more than 2 dogs and/or cats are allowed. Objectionable animals or birds will be ordered to be removed.

19. Solar collector installations must be concealed from view from any point beyond the building site on which located.

Editor's note: Covenants and Architectural Guidelines are available on our web site: www.cfe7.org

President's Message

2010's Annual Membership Meeting Date

Mark your calendar

Our Annual Meeting of the Homeowners of Catalina Foothills Estate #7 will be held on.....

Tuesday the 11th of May 2010.

Cat 7 Neighborhood Watch
Meet & Greet Social
Annual Meeting

We Look Forward in seeing you there!



NEIGHBORHOOD

CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday - 23 January 2010

8:30 am

**Meet at the corner of
Via Entrada and Foothills Dr.**

Help clean-up our neighborhood and meet your neighbors at the same time during our Community clean-up day.

You'll receive a blue plastic garbage bag and will pick up cans, bottles, papers, and trash from the sides of the road and the medians for your chosen section. You will leave the bag on the median for pick-up the following week. Please wear a hat, gloves, and bring water. Your assistance will keep our neighborhood looking its best!

Questions? Call any Board member. Trash bags will be supplied. For more information call Jane Hoffmann at 323-9299.

First, happy holidays to everyone, and best wishes for a wonderful 2010! Over the summer I read a product review in the New York Times by David Pogue, reviewing two e-book readers ("A" and "B"). Product A was a second generation model from a well-known merchant, Product B was the upcoming new entry by a competing well-known merchant. Without getting into specifics, Pogue pointed out several potential advantages of B over A. One line in particular from his review brings a wry smile to my face: "*But it's not all sunshine and bunnies*".

I've done a little research and have not yet determined the source of that particular phrase. What I do know, and is evidenced almost daily here in Catalina Foothills #7, is "*It is all sunshine and bunnies....and cactus...and lizards...and quail...*". As both long-time residents and new arrivals can both attest, Catalina Foothills Estates #7 is a *very special place*. We have great views, charming windy roads, and lots of native vegetation and delightful wildlife.

Our neighborhood retains its special aura from three critical sources: the Protective Covenants created about 40 years ago, the ongoing cooperation of the residents, and the ongoing actions of the Board in enforcing and renewing our Covenants. The first of these three, our Protective Covenants, resulted from the vision and efforts of John Murphey and his staff. The second two critical sources result from residents complying with the Covenants and communicating and cooperating with unpaid volunteers who work to keep this place special.

Speaking for myself, it isn't easy for me to pick up the phone and call a neighbor after receiving a complaint from another homeowner. I don't think it's much easier for most of the other Board members. Nevertheless, on behalf of the person who reported the issue, on behalf of the other 316 homeowners in our neighborhood, and in honor to all those who have done so before us and will do so after our term on the Board is up...your Board members pick up the phone and make the call, or we send the letter. If all goes well, the conversation goes smoothly and the problem gets resolved. I am pleased to report that almost all of the time, such is the case.

One of the best ways to help keep our neighborhood "special" is to contact a Board member prior to starting work on your property or on the outside of your home. We will put you in touch with the appropriate Board member, provide you with the guidelines, and as much assistance as we can.

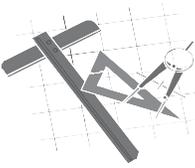
I thank all homeowners who are considerate to their fellow homeowners and consult with the Board *before* making changes to their property or the outside of their home—that is to say, those who follow our Protective Covenants and our Architectural Guidelines. I also thank those who have volunteered to serve on the Board before me, serve today, and those who will step up and serve in the future!

Mike Simons

2009 STATE LEGISLATION

Thirteen bills of interest to homeowner associations were introduced for consideration during this legislative term. Only Senate Bill 1148 was signed into law on 10 July 2008. ARS 33-441: For Sale Signs: Restrictions Unenforceable. This particular bill adds to Chapter 4 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) pertaining to "Conveyances and Deeds" and Affects Community Associations. It involves the right of a property owner to display a "For Sale" sign on his property which may not be infringed on as long as the size of the sign conforms to industry standards. Association CC&Rs about restrictions are no longer enforceable.

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 April 2009 to Nov 2009

	Approved	Pending	Comp.	Disa.	Wdrn
Addition	1		1		
Driveway Work	2	1	1		
Entry Ways	2		2		
Gates	1		1		
Garage/ carport	3	1	2		
Landscape	5	1	4		
Painting	5	3	2		
Pool	1		1		
Replace Door/Windows	5		5		
Ramada	1	1			
Roof Work	11		11		
Screening	2	2	2		
Solar	1	1		1	
Wall/Fence	3	1	2		

Covenant Review April 2009 to Nov 2009

	Review	Pending	Rectified
Debris	1		1
Lights	2	1	1
Mailbox	2	2	2
Mech Equip		1	1
Noise	3	1	2
Stagnet Pool	1		1
Signs	3		3
Trash Containers	6	2	5
Wildlife Feeding	1	1	
White Roof	1	1	
Vehicles/Trailers	1		1
Vegetation	2	2	2
Misc	7	1	6
Unapprv Constr.	5	2	2

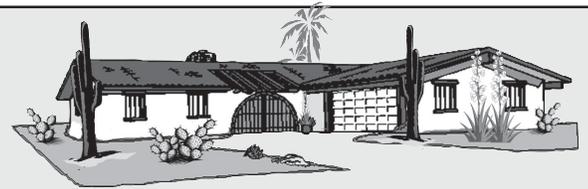
Non-resident completed & pending issues:
Vegetation trimming 1 1

MISSING LEGAL FUND PAYEES

We are still trying to locate the addresses of 7 legal fund payees (individuals who contributed monies when the Riverview Estates Development was being disputed).

Lot 52	1510 E Entrada Sexta	Jeannie Duncan
Lot 179	1771 E Entrada Doce	Roger Murphy
Lot 205	5139 Via Condesa	Drexel Bates
Lot 246	5442 N Via Entrada	Abe Chanin
Lot 300	1000 E Via Entrada	Hugh O'Brien
Lot 312	5221 N Foothills Dr	Ken Rhoads

Any neighbor who is still in touch with these residents and can supply a current address, please call Jane Hoffmann, 323-9299.



Submitting an Architectural Request

- 1- Visit our website or call HOA Secretary to obtain *Architectural Forms* and *instructions*.
- 2- Submit a legible application and *two* sets of complete plans to Architectural Committee.
- 3- Architectural Committee has 14 days to review and inform homeowner of decision.
- 4- Once a decision is determined the homeowner upon an approved plan will receive one set of the plans and has 6 months to complete their submitted project.
- 5- If the homeowners project is denied the homeowner can correct the issue and resubmit or ask for reconsideration
- 6- Intermittent review by the Architectural Committee of the project at the site to insure it is in compliance with the submitted plans.
- 7- Once the homeowner's project is completed a final review at the site by the Arch Committee to insure the project is in accordance to submitted plans.
- 8- *Any* modifications, changes *must be resubmitted for review*.
- 9- Approval of submitted plans by the HOA's Architectural Committee **does not** waive requirements of government permits.
- 10- Upon Final completion of homeowners project and final approval by the Architectural Committee submitted plans are filed by secretary in archives.

Dogs, Dogs, Dogs....

This year the Covenant Committee has received a number of complaints about the dogs in the community. Complaints were not so much the number of animals but the noise and dog feces. Our CC&R's specifically addresses the number of animals a home owner may have and noise and debris are covered broadly by other rules stated in our covenants. What residents should know is that there are stricter rules in the county ordinances about noise and feces

The occasional barking dog usually signals their owners of an occurrence happening in the animal's territory. The problem lies when the dog continually barks to the point neighbors wonder if their owners are paying attention to their animals. The county states in their ordinance that audible sound beyond the property, which disturbs peace and quiet or comfort of the neighboring inhabitants is a problem. Pima County may enforce its rules if possessing the animal causes frequent or continuous howling, barking, squawking, meows, or other sounds. Each day's continuance can be deemed a separate offense. A fine of no less than fifty dollars and no more than five hundred dollars can be imposed.

The other offense is dog feces. We have asked a number of times for dog owners to pick up after their pets while walking them on our streets and wash areas. The County is specific that dog owners must remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, any solid waste deposited by a dog on public or private property. Penalties, if convicted, are a class 3 misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, thirty days in jail, one year probation, or any combination thereof.

Being awoken during the night by a barking dog is at times a good occurrence, but when it is continuous you really question what is going on with the animal and its owner. Hopefully none of our residents will have to receive a fine or serve any time in jail. All that is asked by neighbors is that pet owners be respectful to their neighbors, community environment and their pets.



Cat 7 Neighborhood Watch

This past year our neighborhood watch participation has grown. Now with 230 participants and 30 block leaders we have grown to become a force to proactively stop crime in our community. Even though our crime rate has dropped dramatically I can't express enough the need to stay aware and proactively call in any suspicious acts or unusual occurrences. Knowing your neighbors is a vital part of being aware and the process of the NW. The block groups of residents created allow us to share a watchful eye of the coming and going of the community. Calling police on these occurrences and getting alerts out to participants proactively informs all to be aware of real time events and is key in *not having* any crime occur.

The Sheriff's Dept. has launched two new systems to receive crime data which is web-based and can give daily reports via e-mail or text message. These sites are helpful to Area Leaders, Block leaders and residents, but only supplies information after the fact. The data is a welcome addition of information from police to NW Areas, so they can be informed on the types of crime taking place in and around their areas. Utilizing both pro active and post active information helps NW areas have more strength in the fight against crime.

Also, this past year I had the opportunity to attend Shadow Hills NW social. Shadow Hills is a community of 600 homes just north of our community. They, as well as, other areas have sent information to me, keeping me posted on what is happening in their communities. Shadow Hills NW had slid into dormancy; they have resurrected their NW and proactively gotten their community to dramatically reverse their crime activity. Their action, in turn, helps us. Criminals will know this area is actively watching and calling police on any suspicious activity which will cause them to steer away from our area.

Below are our statistics to date. Mail theft is not reported on the Sheriff's crime map since it is a Federal offense. The statistics that are shown on mail theft are the number of reports received from residents to the NW. As you can see we still need to address home burglaries. There are many factors that contribute to criminals burglarizing a home. Below are 5 leading known factors from those that are arrested:

- 1- The person is someone you know or someone they know.
- 2- It was someone who has been to your home in the past 90 days.
- 3- It is someone who lives approximately 350 feet from your home.
- 4- Occasionally it is random, and the criminally minded see an opportunity.
- 5- A crime spree is focusing on an area.

Residents of Cat 7 are welcome to organize their cul-de-sac or street or join a Block group in our NW area. You can contact the NW for Cat 7 at cfe7nw@msn.com. to organize or join.

Be Aware, Be Safe Your Area Leader June

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny	9	7	18	6	4	1
Auto Theft	0	0	8	0	1	0
Burglary	5	6	6	6	3	4
Vandalism	0	2	1	0	0	2
Mail Theft	unknown for these years			6	2	2



Shadow Hills NW Social



Diane Goodyear from SH & June LeClair- Bucko Cat 7 NW Area Leaders

Plant & Wildlife

Living with Wildlife in the Foothills: by June LeClair-Bucko

In a number of our past newsletters I have written articles about various wildlife who inhabit our community. Upon recently receiving a number of calls on sightings of various large cats, I decided to address the two types of cats that our community encounters. I myself have in recent months seen a couple of bobcats around my home and wandering the washes. I have also seen a mountain lion a number of years ago, but recently found very large tracks going across my gravel driveway. A few residents have called about possible sightings and concern for pet owners.

What we need to be aware of is not to be alarmed or panic by these wild creatures but understand them and realize that this is their community too. Both the mountain lion and bobcat are shy creatures and elusive, people really don't see them often. Most of these cats are often just passing through, but will visit an area to get food, water, or shelter.

Some signs of having a mountain lion in your mist are finding large tracks 3-5 inches wide without claw marks, cylindrical droppings, food caches where a kill has been partially eaten and then covered with brush or dirt, scrapes in soft dust or leaf litter. Mountain lions are solitary except when females have young. Food found such as, deer, javelina, rabbits, unsecured domestic animals or livestock. Water from a swimming pool, pond or pet's water bowl can be an attraction. Mountain lions will use areas for shelter that have cave-like areas, can lie beneath sheds, unused buildings, or even a storm drain.

Bobcats on the other hand are also seen alone, but groups may consist of mating pairs, siblings, or mothers with kittens. Bobcats are most active around sunset and sunrise, and it is not uncommon to find one napping under a shrub in a brushy backyard. Individual bobcats will defend a territory of one to 12 square miles.

You may choose to watch and enjoy a bobcat or bobcat family sharing your yard. However, if you have small pets, you may want to discourage the bobcat from coming onto your property. Remember,

your neighbor may think differently, and it is always a good idea to keep wildlife wild.

To discourage either of these animals the removal of any or all of the food, water and shelter will have them move on. It is illegal to feed any wildlife, and feeding one species will attract others that might not be so desirable. It is understood many of our homes do have swimming pools and readily give the cats opportunity for water. So if you encounter either cat in your back yard give them space to get away, neither likes confrontation and will quickly run away from you.

Be aware small animals left *alone* in the backyard could also be a calling for these cats. If you encounter either cat, make loud noises and make yourself appear large by waving your arms. If it is a mountain lion DO NOT RUN. Make eye contact; yell in a firm loud voice while securing yourself, children or small animals in a building by backing away. Having children panic and run can stimulate the mountain lion. Any wildlife needs an escape route from you so don't create a confrontation by cornering any wildlife animal.

Often bobcats that are around a home frequently maybe caring for a new litter of kittens. If you are able to tolerate them for a few weeks they will move on once they are old enough to leave with their mother.

There are many different wildlife creatures in Cat 7 other than cats that can be a predator to our small pets. Educate yourself on these species to minimize unwanted encounters. Below is a list of some wildlife creatures that make their home in our community. Visit the Fish & Game website at www.azgfd.gov or Desert USA at www.desertusa.com for additional information on these and other desert dwellers. Remember it is food, water and shelter that are needed to call a place home. We share our desert environment with many wild life neighbors. To achieve a harmonious community, it is important to educate ourselves about their habits and incorporate a lifestyle that will respect each other's space.

Some of Our Desert Wildlife:

Bats- protected by law, eat many undesirable insects. Bats can squeeze into holes as small as 3/8 inch and are attracted to spaces inside buildings and attics, under bridges, in culverts, behind siding on buildings, in palm trees, and under eaves and porch or patio awnings.

Bees- live where mostly nectar producing flowers grow. Important pollinating insect. Africanized bees are the most aggressive in defending hives. Sting can be deadly due to intolerance or multiple stings.

Birds- we have many species of birds who actively eat insects, spiders, and desert vegetation.

Bobcat- will occupy a territory of 12 miles, feeds on small animals, birds and reptiles. Shelter for bobcats can include rooftops, attics, and the space underneath decks. Other small spaces can make attractive dens also, and bobcats will sometimes rest during the day or bask in the sun. This makes them attracted to thick brush, shade, and unoccupied yards.



Burrowing Owls- Occasionally seen along roadsides. They nest in areas of short, open scrublands such as mesquite, creosote bush, rabbit-brush, and four-wing saltbush

Cicada- flying insect, makes a buzzing sound, often heard before seen. Most noticeable May thru August.

Coyote- active at night, scavenging qualities Food can include unattended pets, birds or rodents attracted to bird feeders, pet food, garbage, or fallen fruit.



Desert Rodents- feed on seeds, plant life. Attracts parasitic insects that can be harmful to humans. Population controlled by predatory animals. Nest of packrats should be kept at a 20ft distance from homes due to light attracting co-nesting insects.

Desert Tortoise- Protected by AZ law found along rocky slopes feeds on grasses, perennials, succulents, woody vines

Gambel's Quail- feeds on seed and green plants, gives birth in April – May. Eggs are often eaten by snakes and lizards.

Plant & Wildlife

Gila Monsters- Lizard who feeds on small mammals, lizards, bird eggs, other reptiles. A gentle reptile unless provoked. Venomous and protected by the state.

Harvester Ants- can strip vegetation, has an irritating bite, venomous to some animals.

Hummingbirds- can be seen along washes and thickets, beneficial in pollinating plants

Javelina- use washes and areas with dense vegetation as travel corridors. Javelina are most active at night, but may be active during the day when it's cold. Having poor eyesight it may appear to be charging when actually trying to escape. Need a water source for drinking. Eat primarily plants, including cacti, succulent plants, bulbs, tubers, beans and seeds; sometimes eat insects, garbage and grubs



King Snakes- feeds on small mammals, turtles, reptiles including other snakes, birds & their eggs

Lizards- feed mostly on insects, spiders. Some eat bird eggs.

Mountain Lion- Territory sizes range from 10 to 350 square miles; males range more widely than females. Diet includes primarily deer, but also a wide variety of other animals, including javalina, elk, and even smaller species like rabbits



Rabbits -feed on plants and shrubs, cacti. Their population is controlled by predatory animals.

Raptors (owls, hawks, eagles) - feeds on rodents, birds, snakes, rabbits and insects. Large birds of prey may also hunt small domestic animals, including dogs, cats and chickens, especially during raptors' winter migration period from September to April. Prefers open areas



Rattlesnakes- give it space to go on its way, feeds on small mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, centipedes. 13 different species, some species born alive are more poisonous than their parents.

Roadrunners- prefers scattered vegetated areas, feeds on snakes, rodents insects,

Spiders- feed on insects, Black widow not aggressive but will bite if cornered. Venomous.

Scorpions- nocturnal, feeds on spiders, insects. It likes warmer months, sting can be harmful

Tarantulas- feeds primarily on insects, bite is painful but not dangerous.



Woodpeckers- Feeds on a variety of insects, mostly wood-boring (termites, carpenter bees, etc.). They will also eat native berries, fruits, nuts and certain seeds. Protected by state and federal laws.

The following story was submitted by Connie Spittler after an informational alert went out to residents on a possible hive near a home experiencing large gatherings of bees. Written 6/09

Honeybees by Connie Spittler



The desert afternoons slip by, like golden honey dripping from a spoon. Drawn to the blue rapture of rosemary in bloom, the bees stay close. I hear their buzzing in the garden, then watch, as inflamed with pollen, they fly away to spin their energy into a treasure comb of miracle.

Insects bearing gifts, bees pollinate crops, fruit and wildflowers, to play a life-giving role in sustaining our healthy eco-system. It's been their business for ages. The flight of bees reaches back to ancient times, illustrated by Pliny the Elder's tribute to the organization of bees in his encyclopedic volume, *Naturalis Historia*. Long ago in Rhodes, brides dipped their fingers in honey before entering their new home. During the Roman Empire, citizens could pay their taxes with honey, instead of gold. In Egypt and the Middle East, people embalmed the dead with honey, of particular interest to me since my father was a mortician.

It's indisputable that bees and honey have left their mark on spiritual tradition. In the Bible's New Testament, it tells of John the Baptist living in the wilderness on locusts and wild honey, while in the Book of Judges, Samson finds a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of a lion.

In Jewish tradition, honey is the symbol of Rosh Hashanah, the New Year. Apple slices dipped in honey celebrate the anticipated sweetness to come. Buddhist monks receive honey during the festival of Madhu Parnima, a practice that commemorates Buddha's retreat, seeking peace with his disciples. The legend states that while away, a monkey brought him honey and thus began the tradition. Regarding Islam, there is an entire Surah in the Holy Qur'an called the Honey Bee and according to hadith, Prophet Muhammad strongly recommended honey for healing purposes.

Inside a rocky cave in Valencia, Spain, Eva Crane discovered evidence of a Middle Stone Age painting. Her book, *Archaeology of Beekeeping*, finds humans hunting for honey at least 10,000 years ago. The artwork shows two female honey-hunters collecting the sweetness from a high bee hive. The women, depicted in the nude, carry baskets and use a long, wobbly ladder to reach the wild nest.

Dwelling on the illustrious history of bees makes reading about their recent mysterious disappearances truly distressing. Millions of honeybees have disappeared, as Western hives suffer from colony collapse disorder. Articles blame mites, malnutrition, pesticides and cell phones, with the mites receiving the most scientific attention.

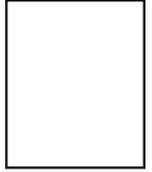
Fortunately, worldwide research rises to protect the honeybees. It's discovered that some Russian varieties are resistant to the destructive mites. Organic beekeepers also claim success in keeping their hives buzzing with activity.

Spanish researchers isolate the parasitic fungi that invades hives with disastrous results. When treated with an antibiotic, the bees completely recover.

At our first Tucson home, a black mass shaped like a football appeared in the low sky and swarmed around our scraggly orchard of fruit trees. We stood a distance away, as this dark, traveling beehive floated here and there, looking for a place to land. The thought of honey produced in our backyard intrigued us, but since our arrival in the Southwest, the innocent Arizona honeybees merged with the Africanized type. Even appreciating their place in nature, the close presence of bees more aggressive and some-

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Honey Bees con't from pg 7

times dangerous, flashed a worrisome note. I thought of the naked women in the rock art and admitted I was not a honey gatherer of that courageous type. When the bees in the orchard swam through the air to find a better home, I breathed a sigh of relief.

Years later, in a new house, another swarm arrived, to nest inside the hole of a saguaro outside our back wall. The cactus stood tall, a sentinel guarding the swimming pool. Cautiously, we watched the bees gradually establish ownership of our backyard, dipping regularly into the pool to seek a drop or two of moisture. We chose a path of peaceful co-existence and whenever possible, avoided them, knowing that now all Arizona bees are called the killer kind.

With grandkids scheduled to visit, I remembered the bee sting I'd suffered years ago in our Nebraska pool. The image of kids splashing in the water, hovered over by ever-present killer bees made us reach for the phone. Rather than risk grandkids' stings from riled up insects, we called the University of Arizona Agriculture Division. Soon, a well-garbed, head covered team arrived to remove the mass from the saguaro hole.

Eventually, the bees returned, bringing their electrostatic charges and voicing

their authority. Mostly in pairs of two's, they rustle about when I seek the cool water, buzzing my head. Since I live on this property too, I swim regularly, but with a costume change. Submerged in the pool, now I wear a large purple sunhat to protect my head from curious bees. The Cone of Silence, my kids named the hat, after the old TV show, *Get Smart*. Every time I think of Agent 99 as my alter identity, I laugh, but cling to my practical solution of safety.

We can't escape them. In symbol and reality, bees and honey exist everywhere. Shoppers choose from orange blossom, mesquite, rum truffle honey or other wildflower variations. Loved ones are called, "hon" and "honey" or in the musical *South Pacific*, the affectionate "honeybun". Turning the pages of our kids' favorite book, I once again enjoy *Winnie The Pooh's* affection for that sweet stickiness. I fondly recall the lyrics of the first song our son Judd learned as a little boy. It began, "The buzzing of the bees in the sycamore trees."

As the heat of the sun drips thoughts of bees and honey into my desert hours, the buzzing sound of approaching visitors reaches my ear. I think of apple trees. Peach trees. Almonds and alfalfa. Cabbage. Onion. Pumpkin. Cotton and soybeans. These industrious insects pollinate a long, remarkable list that covers two-thirds of the globe's major crops. Out of respect, I tip my purple Cone of Silence hat to the bees that bless the delicate balance of our good earth with their good work.

Don't  Forget

**Saturday
23 January 2010
NEIGHBORHOOD
CLEAN-UP DAY**

8:30 am

**Saturday - 23 January
2010**

**Meet at the corner of
Via Entrada & Foothills Dr.**



**Annual Meeting
of the
Homeowners
of
Catalina Foothills Estate #7**

**Tuesday the 11th of
May 2010.**