

NEWS CHATTER FROM THE LIVING DESERT

MAY 2018

Animal update

The blue jay is now back in the walk-through aviary after recovering from an injury. If you have not been through the Aviary for awhile it's worth the trip to see this very friendly little bird.

PERSON OF INTEREST

Susan Young moved to Carlsbad just so she could start up a Docent program. She saw the need, got permission and it started up about 25yrs. ago. We have Susan to thank for the many special programs she got started. She wrote 7 books on animals and one was published-Maggie the Bear. She got her start as a Docent at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. She saw the need for the young kids to have a hands on interest with the animals. She first started the "Story Time" for pre-school and later started up "Zoo Camp" which is very popular with 9-12 yrs olds in the summer time. Kids that have been through zoo camp can then later become a junior docent and help with camp. Also the "Outreach Program" was started by taking special animals to the schools so the kids could see and touch some of the desert animals while studying them. We have Susan to Thank for our special programs.

COMING EVENTS:

Star Party Friday May 11 – 7:30pm

Learn about the Endangered Species of the Chihuahuan Desert on May 19- 1:pm to 3:pm.

Full Moon Walk – May 26 Reservations required – call 575-887-5516

HORTICULTURE

Spring is ending and summer will be upon us. Many species are still in bloom, such as catclaw, prickly pear and creosote bush. If you don't like the weather now, wait a couple of hours, I'm sure it will be more to your liking.

Creosote Bush or *Larrea tridentata* is also known as Greasewood or gobernadora(governess). It is an indicator species of the Chihuahuan, Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. This means that when you find this plant growing wild, you know you are in one of these deserts. They are well known for their glossy evergreen leaves, yellow flowers, ability to hamper seed germination, and fragrance. The roots of this plant are so efficient at the up-take of water that other plants cannot compete when water is scarce. For those who have spent time around them, their smell is associated with 'the smell of rain'. This hardy plant grows 3 to 10 feet tall. Creosote It is also very sensitive plants to transplant shock so great care must be taken not to damage roots when transplanting. Few pests attack this shrub, but many species of insects will pollinate it. Native Americans used the plant as a source of wood and remedy for a variety of ailments. Scale insects will deposit a resin that could be used as a water-proofing substance or glue. This plant is relatively pest free and requires no additional watering after establishment.

DOCENTS

Lots of trips coming up with school trips. Docents needed so please check schedule and sign up when you can. Thanks

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Ok we are progressing to page two isn't that wonderful.

Our Unique Craft Show will be Sat and Sun May 12-13 inside the facility. All of the crafts are handmade and by local artists.

If you have a special talent and would like to sell your crafts at the Craft show you can pick up an application at the front desk or contact Sonia at 575-725-7114. Call her ASAP.

The space is a 10x10, we will have tables and chairs. The cost is \$50.00 for both days, make your checks to Friends of the Living Desert. We are a 501 C 3 organization and you fee is tax deduction, all monies raised benefit the Friends.

VACATIONS

Holly has been gone on a well deserve vacation. Some of us will be ecstatic when she gets back.

I will be out of town for approximately 3 weeks. You will need to call the LDZG Office if you need any information.

We Hate to see you go

Sue McCullum one of our front desk volunteers and special events volunteers is moving to ABQ. She is so excited to be moving closer to her children and grandchildren. We will miss her smiling face.

Accidents Happen

Missy is coming along great with the healing of her right foot. It's in a hard cast and she is using a walker, so she won't be sneaking up on any of us. She hurt it at home tripping over one of her dogs. There were a few other dogs involved in the accident but none of them were injured. Hopefully she will be wearing a boot next week.