

Friends of PINNACLE PEAK PARK Newsletter

Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park • PMB 288, 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road • Scottsdale AZ 85255 • www.pinnaclepeakpark.com

Chuparosa - Justicia californica

By Kelly Hayes

What's in a Name?

Chuparosa means “it sucks the rose,” which is one Spanish word used for “hummingbird.” Perhaps this is a fitting name for this widely spread beautiful shrub that grows throughout the deserts of southern California, Arizona, and northern Mexico. It is a native flowering low bush which prefers dry, hot regions to grow in. So why the reference to hummingbirds? The Chuparosa produces many tubular flowers, typically in shades of bright to deep red and even sometimes yellow (rarely). Each of these colorful flowers has a wide lower lip that falls open to reveal the inside of the blossom. Chuparosa flowers are ornithophilous, which basically means they are “bird loving!” Hummingbirds are attracted to the red color and sweet nectar of the chuparosa flowers. Other species of birds also frequent this shrub to eat the sugar-rich flower centers. In turn, the birds pollinate the blossoms as they move from plant to plant.

Many people love to grow this plant in their yard to attract birds and of course, to appreciate the beautiful blossoms. Typically the flowers will bloom on and off throughout the year, due to soil and water resources, however flowering is most vigorous from March through June. The chuparosa is popular for its flowers, but it is also made up of dense, soft and hairy branches. For a limited time each year it bears succulent leaves, but will lose its leaves during drought or cold. On average, a chuparosa will grow up to five feet high, at times growing to even seven feet.



Photo by Kathy Mascaro



Photo by Steve Jones

Nectar Thieves

Yes, you never would have guessed it but there are such things as nectar thieves! These little thieves are actually very intelligent insects who have figured out how to extract the nectar from a chuparosa flower, without paying it forward through pollinating it. One of the most common perpetrators is the carpenter bee. They will land on top of the floral tube and then use their sharp mouth-parts to slit the flower just above the base. This allows them to extract the nectar from inside but since they do not pollinate the flowers in return, they are referred to as nectar thieves.

The Perfect Addition to Your Yard

Chuparosa is a hummingbird-loving, drought tolerant and low maintenance native plant. What more could you ask for? It is a lovely choice when choosing plants for your desert landscaping. That being said, for a “prettier plant” it looks best when it is watered twice a month in the winter and spring, and monthly in the summer and fall. Try to water it to a depth of two feet for the best results. In the winter, chuparosa can be affected if temperatures dip into the low 20s. If damage to the foliage does occur, typically regrowth in the spring is rapid. Make sure to prune your chuparosa in the spring to remove any frost-damaged growth or woody, unproductive branches.

Chuparosa at Pinnacle Peak Park

We have chuparosa growing naturally here at the Park. Before you hit the trail, look for one of these shrubs by our centrally located saguaro between the office and ramada area. This particular chuparosa often blooms in the winter, allowing visitors to see its beautiful blossoms without even hiking. When it is blooming, you might be lucky enough to see a hummingbird enjoying its nectar.



Photo by Kathy Mascaro

Background Photo by Kathy Mascaro

Featured Staff: Kelly Hayes

By Challie Facemire

Meet Kelly Hayes, the newest member of the Pinnacle Peak team! Kelly is the Assistant Natural

Resources Coordinator for Pinnacle Peak Park and the Central Area of the Preserve. Previously she worked at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center as the Education Director, and ran educational programs at Pinnacle Peak. The photo shows her and Roger the skunk after one of the programs. Kelly is an Arizona native who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources: Wildlife Management.



Artwork by Kelly Hayes

Before working at Pinnacle Peak and Southwest Wildlife, Kelly had some fascinating internships. She interned at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in Utah where she led interpretive tours and completed trail work. At the Eagle River Nature Center in Alaska she led guided interpretive hikes for school groups and the public. She also did trail maintenance at Chugach State Park at the time. Finally, at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson she cleaned the animal exhibits, did maintenance, and prepared the animal diets and enrichment.

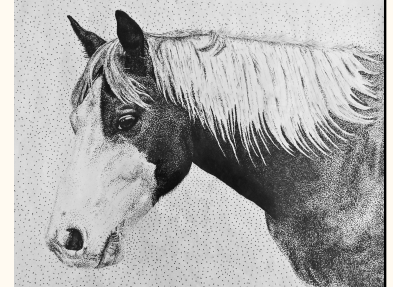


Photo by Yvonne Massman

Kelly's career is a reflection of her love for the outdoors and animals. She adores hiking, backpacking, and kayaking. She was also an avid equestrian training in dressage with her horse Tonka. Since Tonka's diagnosis of navicular she has spent more time hiking. She also loves expressing this adoration of nature and animals in photography and art. She was kind enough to supply photos of some of her paintings here. In her spare time she shares her talents by teaching art lessons to children: she had worked with children in Youth Development for the City of Scottsdale before taking her position at Pinnacle Peak Park. On her outdoor adventures she is accompanied by her husband Matt and Marley, their mini Australian Shepherd. They also have a cat, Ziggy, but Ziggy stays at home rather than taking part in the outdoor adventures. Kelly's recommended hikes in Arizona are Water Wheel in Payson, and any hike in Saguaro National Park east of Tucson. Please say hello to Kelly next time you see her in the Park!



Artwork by Kelly Hayes



Artwork by Kelly Hayes

Volunteer Training

By Kelly Hayes

Are you interested in volunteering of your time to meet some great people and hike the Pinnacle Peak trail? Our volunteers are a very important asset to our park; they aid in trail roving, interpretive hikes, office work, trail maintenance, and visitor questions. Every year, we hold our annual volunteer training starting in October for new volunteers. We offer various classes, some of which are mandatory in becoming a volunteer at Pinnacle Peak Park. If you are interested, please stop by our office at the park and pick up a volunteer application.

Friends Calendar Sales

2017 Calendar Sales for the Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park will begin in October. This project is helping raise funds for the anticipated improvements at the Park. The calendar depicts the beauty of the Park and provides useful information about the Sonoran Desert. Cost is \$12 per calendar or two for \$20 and will be available at the Park.

Volunteer Jim Friedbacher

By Yvonne Massman

Volunteer Jim Friedbacher celebrated his 50th Anniversary with his wife Barb! We don't typically feature such amazing and wonderful events in our newsletter, but this one just seemed to be worthy of noting because there were so many components that tied Pinnacle Peak into the event!

Jim met his wife Barb when they both lived in Milwaukee. Barb was working on her Nursing degree at the University of Wisconsin, while Jim was working on a degree in Education. Although they have lived in Arizona for a number of years, they still continue to travel back to Madison, where their daughter lives as well as the many friends who they still visit and remain in touch with. Jim and Barb started their residence in Arizona as Snowbirds. They later became permanent residents of Scottsdale where their daughter Sarah and her family live. Jim and Barb have a son and family in Switzerland and three other children and their families who still live in the Midwest.

Their 50th Anniversary was on the exact day of our most recent Pinnacle Peak Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: April 2, 2016. Jim began his volunteer work at Pinnacle Peak in the early years of the park, and had been a regular at the Appreciation Dinners in the past. Jim clearly told me that as much of a disappointment it was going to be to miss this blowout event this year, it was in his best interest to take Barb out to dinner that

evening if 50 more years of wedded bliss was in his future. They had a lovely celebratory dinner at Binkley's that evening, while the volunteers dined on wraps and delicacies from Pita Jungle.



Photo by Ed Walworth

The Golden Jubilee continued into July when Jim and Barb went back to Wisconsin to celebrate with family and friends. Park volunteer and former Wisconsin resident, Ed Walwork and his wife Maria, drove back there from Scottsdale to visit family and to attend the celebration. Even though they all worked and lived in Milwaukee, Jim and Barb and Ed and Maria didn't become friends until they met in Scottsdale.

The day of the party, July 9th, I took a call at the park later in the afternoon. The call was from Jim and Barb's friend, Pat Benes, who was in Milwaukee. Pat was getting ready to go to the party and wanted to honor Jim and Barb with a special gift. She told me that she knew a donation to The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park was a sure thing since it was such an important part of their Arizona life. Now is that a story, or is that a story!

Scheduled Activities at the Park

09/10/16 10AM - 12 PM Phoenix Herpatology

09/16/16 6:30PM Full Moon Hike

09/30/16 6:45PM Astronomy Night

10/08/16 10AM-12PM Pat Rickard, flute player

10/15/16 6PM Full Moon Hike

10/29/16 6PM Astronomy Night

11/05/16 10AM-12PM Southwest Wildlife

11/14/16 5:45PM Full Moon Hike

11/20/16 10AM - 12PM Liberty Wildlife

12/02/16 5:45PM Astronomy Night

12/03/16 TBA Jingle Hike to Santa

12/13/16 5:30PM Full Moon Hike

12/16/2016 6:30PM-8PM Game & Fish
Program: Sonoran Desert Life (Origins and
Wildlife)

12/17/16 10AM-12PM Southwest Wildlife

12/30/16 6PM Astronomy Night

01/07/17 10AM - 12PM Southwest Wildlife

Scheduled Activities at the Park

01/11/17 5:45PM Full Moon Hike
01/22/17 10AM - 12PM Liberty Wildlife
01/28/17 6:15PM Astronomy Night
02/10/17 6:15PM Full Moon Hike
02/17/2016 6:30PM-8PM Game & Fish
Program: Horned Lizards
02/18/17 10AM-12PM Southwest Wildlife
02/24/17 6:45PM Astronomy Night
03/11/17 10AM-12PM Pat Rickard, flute player
03/12/17 6:45PM Full Moon Hike
03/18/17 10AM-12PM Phoenix Herpetology
03/24/17 7:15PM Astronomy Night
04/01/17 10AM-12PM Pat Rickard, flute player
04/10/17 7:00PM Full Moon Hike
04/14/2016 6:30PM-8PM Game & Fish
Program: Desert Tortoises
04/21/17 7:30PM Astronomy Night
04/23/17 10AM-12PM Liberty Wildlife
05/06/17 10AM-12PM Phoenix Herpetology
05/10/17 7:30PM Full Moon Hike
05/16/17 8:00PM Astronomy Night
06/02/17 8:00PM Astronomy Night
06/09/17 7:45PM Full Moon Hike
07/09/17 8:00PM Full Moon Hike
08/07/17 7:30PM Full Moon Hike
09/06/17 7:00PM Full Moon Hike
09/22/17 6:45PM Astronomy Night

*Reservations are required for Game & Fish, Full Moon Hikes, & Astronomy Talks only, and can be made a week in advance. Astronomy Nights have a minimum age of 8 to attend. Please call the Park's main number at 480-312-0990 for more information, or to make your reservation. Pinnacle Peak Park is located at 26802 N. 102nd Way, Scottsdale 85262.



**This Newsletter is published by
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Send newsletter feedback and input to:
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