

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Research Symposium Planned for October 24-25



Please join us for the the first-ever
McDowell Sonoran Preserve Research Symposium



This two-day event brings together researchers, students, citizens, and community leaders to share and learn about the scientific and historical research conducted within Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the surrounding area. This event is hosted by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's Field Institute and Scottsdale Community College's Center for Native and Urban Wildlife.

Purpose:

- Promote awareness of the research being undertaken on the Preserve and Sonoran Desert.
- Encourage networking among scientists, students, and the public
- Trigger new research and collaborations that benefit the Preserve and surrounding parks, preserves, and natural areas.

When:

October 24, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Presentations
- Posters
- Biodiversity tours

October 25, 8:30 am - 12:00 p.m.

- Educational hikes to research sites in the Preserve
- Workshops and tours at Scottsdale Community College

Where:

Scottsdale Community College, 9000 E Chaparral Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 in the Science Lecture Building.

Registration

Registration for the symposium is \$20, which includes a Saturday continental breakfast, morning and afternoon refreshments (coffee & tea), and Sunday activities. A student rate of \$10 is offered to undergraduate and graduate students. To register, go to www.mcdowellsonoran.org and find link under "Latest News". For more information, to submit an abstract, or to inquire about scholarships, contact mspresearch@mcdowellsonoran.org.



The Maricopa Community Colleges
are EEO/AA Institutions.



Agenda

Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve Research Symposium



October 24-25 Scottsdale Community College, Science Lecture Building
9000 Chaparral Road, Scottsdale 85256



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Saturday, October 24

8:00 - 8:20 - Sign-in and registration

8:20 - 8:30 - Welcome and introduction: Helen Rowe and John Weser

8:30 - 9:00 - Keynote Speaker - Virginia Korte, Scottsdale City Council

Oral Presentations

9:00 - 9:15 : Geologic History of the McDowell Mountains

9:20 - 9:35: Ghost Road

9:40 - 9:55: Vegetation and Flora of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

10:00- 10:20 - Refreshment break - refreshments, posters and tours

Oral Presentations (continued)

10:35 - 10:50: Ground Dwelling Arthropods in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Results from a Three-Year Study

10:55 - 11:10: Endemic Desert Snails of the Valley of the Sun and Conservation of the Phoenix Talussnail (*Sonorella allynsmithi*)

11:15 - 11:30: A Survey of the Herpetofauna Occurring in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve

11:35 - 11:50: Non-Native Plant Species in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Assessing the Feasibility and Efficacy of New Technology in Vegetation Monitoring and Plant Ecology

11:55 - 12:10: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Stewards and the Experience of "Place": A Focus Group Pilot Study

12:15 - 1:00: Lunch and Center for Native and Urban Wildlife guided tours

1:00 - 2:00: Poster presentations

2:00 - 2:30: Keynote speaker: Sharon Hall, CAP LTER

2:30 - 3:45: Panel Discussion: The Future of Conservation in the Phoenix Valley

3:45 - 4:00: Closing

Sunday, October 25

8:30 - 12:00 Guided Hikes in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Marcus Landslide Hike - Brian Gootee and Ron Rutowski

Brown's Ranch Hike - John Weser and Len Marcisz

8:30 - 12:00 Scottsdale Community College Center for Native and Urban Wildlife workshops and tours

Bee box workshop

Tours of propagation yard

Willow cutting workshop

Tours of burrowing owl habitat

For information contact mspresearch@mcdowellsonoran.org

Symposium Keynote Speakers

Virginia Korte



Virginia Korte has been a member of the Scottsdale City Council since 2013 and President and CEO of Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS) since 2008. Ms. Korte served as the President and CEO and then President Emeritus of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce from 2002 - 2008. Virginia was the Director for the Center for Native and Urban Wildlife and Professor of Biology with Scottsdale Community College from 1998 until 2002 and led Ray Korte Chevrolet as the Owner and General Manager until 1998. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science both from Northern Arizona University. Virginia has been involved with numerous organizations helping make this community a better and more well-rounded place, including serving as a Board Member for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

Sharon J. Hall



Sharon J. Hall is an ecosystem scientist who works across scales and focuses on features of an ecosystem as small as a microbe, to as large as a landscape. She and her collaborators seek to explore the drivers, patterns, and consequences of human activity in natural and managed ecosystems across the world. To achieve these goals, Hall and her research team focus on understanding the ecological feedbacks between humans and the environment. For example, her team measures the extent to which urban air pollution affects ecosystem health and functioning they work with engineers and agronomists to develop nutrient-efficient agricultural methods; they collaborate with teams in other cities to explore the socio-ecology of residential yard management; and they explore how villages in the developing world cope with rapid environmental change, such as biological species invasions.

Panel Discussion Participants



RJ Cardin
Director
Maricopa County
Parks



Ian Dowdy
Director, Sun Cor-
ridor Programs
Sonoran Institute



Kroy Ekblaw
Preserve Director
City of Scottsdale



Ken Vonderscher
Deputy Director
Phoenix Parks &
Recreation