



VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTDOOR ARIZONA

ANNUAL REPORT
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*There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew. ~Marshall McLuhan*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

I am pleased to present this year's Annual Report. The year has seen some significant changes “behind the scenes”. By that I am referring to the major revision to our web site implemented in July of 2007 and followed almost immediately by another year of intensive work to create “OutdoorVolunteer.org.” Meanwhile with your support and involvement we have made important contributions to healing, protecting, and enhancing access to outdoor Arizona.

The trend toward encore performances for current clients continues with VOAz Projects – an affirmation of our reliability and hard work. At the event this past April at Montezuma Castle, staff was a bit distressed when they realized that we had not been for two years. Immediately following the event, they booked a date for 2009. Additionally, we added two new projects in Phoenix, which encapsulated five events last winter. These events attracted many new volunteers and members, and contributed to increased participation at other events outside of Phoenix.

VOAz's success is simply that we are organized and focused. I am convinced that with volunteer stewardship as our primary focus, we have certain advantages over organizations in which volunteer stewardship is an add-on to a “larger” mission—usually advocacy. As good as we are at the hands-on work, we must continually reassess our strengths, which are not the same as they were, say, five years ago. Looking to 2009 and beyond, are there other ways we should contribute to volunteer stewardship in Arizona? This provides a nice segue way into talking about the new stuff behind the curtain.

During the two years leading up to the VOAz web site revision, Jason Saunders, Johnnie Grgurich, others, and myself worked to place all operations data (excluding accounting) onto a secure web site. This was needed because of the nature of our work – events constantly being added and completed, advance registration management, quick volunteer communications and leadership coordination – to assure that our events are enjoyable and productive. Those who have served as event leaders across the divide between the prior web site and the new VOAz.org can barely remember how cumbersome the process used to be. Although some new tasks were added to the process to provide more complete information for volunteers and members, a net gain in productivity is evident.

We hope that as members you have noticed improvements as well. You now can easily update your contact information and communications preferences; and, after you login, you can quickly see what you have already registered for and easily manage your registration status. You can even track your participation (so you can promptly nail us for any counting errors!). With the reduced administrative burden for Event Managers, it is easier to do a better job of addressing specific registrant concerns. The fact that I rarely get personal emails or phone calls from volunteers requesting that I sign them up or cancel their registration for a particular event, or change their email address or phone number, is to me a sign that you are getting comfortable with this new system. We will continue to work at making the web site experience easier and more interactive while we reap the benefits of the enhanced productivity it has yielded.

After we launched the new site in July, we started work on another major addition that enabled us to create OutdoorVolunteer.org. With OutdoorVolunteer.org, VOAz has taken on a brand new task. Why in the world should we do that?



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

The best one word answer may be ‘survival.’ Actually, there are several good reasons, but I don’t want to minimize our need to attend to our longevity. I have spoken with several fund raising professionals and thought a lot about VOAz’s long-term future in recent years. I have concluded that raising the funds needed to maintain a program with the features that members seem to value most requires we reach beyond simply doing as many events as we possibly can. But, OutdoorVolunteer.org is not simply a response to a the possibility of extinction. There were other compelling reasons for creating OutdoorVolunteer.org. Before going into that, let me briefly explain what it is.

Building on the program put in place with the 2007 website revision, OutdoorVolunteer.org allows other conservation organizations and public and private land managers to promote their outdoor volunteering opportunities as well as register and manage volunteers on line. OutdoorVolunteer.org provides volunteers an integrated calendar showing all upcoming and open events. Over the years, many organizations have asked us to help them recruit volunteers – Outdoor Volunteer.org addresses their need. To help volunteers find the opportunities that best suite them, the calendar may be searched based on event date, area of the state, type of work, age group, and presenting organization. Over time, OutdoorVolunteer.org will relieve the need for volunteers to search through multiple web sites to find the kind of opportunity they are looking for.

VOAz’s stated mission is to “involve Arizonans in environmental stewardship through participation in and support of volunteer work that preserves, protects and enhances the public and other protected lands of Arizona.” VOAz is one of many groups involving volunteers in trail and habitat work. We can never be large enough to make a serious dent in the vast backlog of work to be done in Arizona, the fifth largest state in the continental U.S. As valuable as our accomplishments on the ground are, we are becoming even more valuable for what we have learned about managing outdoor volunteering. Perhaps it is our time to put this knowledge to work at upgrading and expanding the kind of high-quality, volunteer opportunities that volunteers are seeking and land managers need.

With support from Dorothy Garske Center, VOAz will invest significant resources during the 2008-2009 year to implement a long-term funding strategy. OutdoorVolunteer.org will be an important part of our appeal to new funding sources.

What does all of this mean for current members? For the most part, VOAz members are looking for great opportunities to get outdoors with like minded people and do some good work. We are not relinquishing our commitment to you in this regard. We must continue to demonstrate our capacity to provide a superior volunteer experience and high-value outcomes for land managers. By reassessing our “assets,” we aim to shape a strategy the will bring a diversified base of financial support and allow us to meet our commitment to the estate of Dorothy Garske – a lasting legacy of her generosity.

Michael Baker

Report design by Paul Martucci.



IN THE FIELD WITH VOAZ

This year we completed sixteen events at ten project sites plus a crew leader training weekend. The extent to which existing partners keep calling us back is reflected in the fact that we began work this year at only two new sites. Four hundred eighty one volunteers contributed 4,144 hours of field work (travel not included).

VOAz initiated two new projects during the past year.

Habitat Preservation at General Springs

VOAz has worked on several trail realignment tasks on the Arizona Trail near General Springs Cabin. One unfortunate feature of this trail alignment is that it passes through a flood plane just below the cabin, which resulted in both trail instability and stream damage as trail runoff and the attendant silt was directed into this perennial stream. The Forest Service is attempting to re-establish native fish in this stream reach. We also found a severe head-cut that was undermining stream health and that could eventually threaten a trail crossing.

Working with the Forest Service Hydrologist, remedies for several conditions were devised and implemented in September of 2007.



South Mountain Park Northwest Perimeter Trail

South Mountain Park is a major outdoor recreation resource for Valley residents. Its 16,000 acres contain 51 miles of primary trails, numerous picnic facilities, and the South Mountain Environmental Education Center. The City of Phoenix asked VOAz to address a critical trail relocation issue along the northwest boundary of the park. An as yet to be named trail leading to the San Juan Overlook crossed private property soon to be developed as a residential neighborhood. VOAz designed a new trail to replace the segment to be lost. Once approved by the city trails planner, VOAz built all the drainage crossings and about twelve inches of tread for the .9 mile reroute. The initial tread was started at one large event in January followed by two mini-events. Work on this project is slated to be completed at the REI Service Project in November of 2008.

VOAz completed additional work on eight continuing projects.

Conservation Work at Hart Prairie Nature Preserve

VOAz marked its eight year and fifteenth event at this spectacular site in July of 2007. However, for the first time, our traditional Memorial Day weekend event in 2008 was cancelled due to the threat of a rapidly approaching snow storm. That storm left about as fast as it arrived. Perhaps we need not be so cautious in the future. Work ranged from the endless task of fuels reduction to seed harvesting.





IN THE FIELD WITH VOAZ

Habitat Restoration along Canyon Creek

Since 2005, VOAz have worked on reducing the presence of Bull thistle that migrated into the beautiful canyon located just below the Rim following the massive Rodeo-Chediski fire of 2002. Another 47 bags were harvested and removed from the site.



REI Service Projects

VOAz's Partnership with REI is now in its ninth year and was marked this year by two service events. In November of 2007 we also partnered with the Arizona Trail Association for yet another event on the Arizona Trail at Pine Trailhead where we also reconfigured the trailhead connections to the Arizona Trail and to the heavily used Pine Springs Trail.

In March of 2008 we continued work on the Salida View Trail #95 (see below for more details). It has been VOAz superior skills at planning and managing large events that has helped to sustain this partnership and the exceptional levels of financial support REI has provided to VOAz.

Habitat Restoration in Central Arizona

This rather general sounding project includes all of our collection of noxious weed sites within and near the Phoenix area. This year we initiated Bufflegrass removal from a site along 19th Avenue in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve (Shaw Butte area). Well attended events in December and January benefited from the relatively wet winter and we were able to remove almost 700 bags of plants.

In February, we returned to the Bartlett Lake area and cleared the main approach road of infestations of Fountain grass along a seven mile reach – 27 acres according to the Forest Service.

Sevenmile Trail network at Fort Apache

At our fourth event on this project, which is supported by a Heritage Grant, VOAz volunteers added another 1000 feet to the Water Tank Loop Trail.





IN THE FIELD WITH VOAZ

Salida View Trail

The fall event, attended by thirty two volunteers was followed in the spring by a crew leader rich REI Service Project. Fifty two volunteers completed 1050 feet of new trail at this event, including an 85 foot retaining wall on a climbing turn. An additional 200 feet of trail was partially completed.



Conservation work at Montezuma Castle

Clearing the historic/archaic irrigation ditch of plant material and sediment, construction of a durable, attractive traffic barrier at the entrance, and removal of flood debris fully occupied thirty four volunteers for the weekend.

Jug Trail Extension at Salome Creek

The instability inherent in this “non-conforming” trail keeps this project perpetually open. However, this is one of those projects many are pleased never to finish as it provides the natural opportunity to traverse the exquisite slot canyon this trail serves. Additional tread armoring and rebuilding are the continuing demands of this trail



Crew Leader Training

Eight new crew leaders, including three from REI, completed the crew leader training weekend in January.



LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

VOAz continued to operate through June 30 with a regular staff of one-the Executive Director who is on loan from Dorothy Garske Center. During part of the year, he has been supported by contracts related to implementation of OutdoorVolunteer.org and young Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona. But, as has been the case in the past and will be in the future, volunteers shoulder most of the work of planning and managing projects/ events and for event support and general operations (warehouse, outreach, web site, etc.). Many members of the volunteer leadership & support team listed below wear more than one hat.

Donna Alexander
Kristi Alexander
Eric Anderson
Lou Arminio
Shirley Armstrong
Carey Avery
Michael Baker
Ed Blanchard
Jill Bluhm
Robert Bruce
Jim Cory
Tim Craig
Jennifer DeWitt
Robert Estores
Michael Galwey
Melissa Geiger
Matt Gilbert
Doug Gregory
Johnnie Grgurich

Judy Hulden
Sally Kirch
Daniel Knollmueller
Fred Kraps
Gail Landry
Lynn Larremore
Kathy Lopez
Paul Martucci
Ardith McKinlay
John Mullen
Carla Olson
Ted Osmond
Paul Paonessa
Shawn Redfield
Brian Romanchuk
Anna Ryan
Ken Ryan
Marilyn Schrab
Charlie Scully

Mike Snodgrass
Nancy Spence
Sue Thiebes
Liisa Walimaa
Bruce Weidenhamer
Joseph Zveglich

Board of Directors

Michael Baker
Thom Hulen
Mike Snodgrass
Carla Olson

Officers

President: Michael Baker
Vice-President: Ed Blanchard
Secretary: Johnnie Grgurich
Treasurer: Michael Baker



MEMBERSHIP

Dues current through June 30, 2008



Stewardship Circle - \$1,000 and above
 Marilia & Michael Baker
 Ed & Melissa Blanchard
 Thomas Hackett

Conservator - \$500 to \$999
 Melissa Geiger
 Bruce Weidenhamer



Guardian - \$250 to \$499
 Lou Arminio
 Marc & Norma Brown
 Nancy Hughes
 Thom Hulen
 Daniel Knollmueller
 Anna Ryan
 Ken Ryan
 Charlie Scully
 Mike Snodgrass



Sustaining - \$100 to \$249
 Eric Anderson
 Kirk Anderson
 Sally Borg
 Tim Craig
 Jaqueline Doyle
 Cathy Droll & Bob Royal
 Lisa Dubas



Karen Furbush
 George Gowman
 David Hicks
 Martha Hobbs
 Judy Hulden
 Els & Jack Janus
 Paul Martucci
 Dick Mayo
 Peter Michels
 Judy & John Mullen
 Phyllis Ralley
 Sue Thiebes
 Joseph Zveglich



Supporting - \$50 to \$99
 Carey Avery
 Julie Binter
 Lori Booth-Houle
 Les Cherow
 Pam Cissik
 Clori D'Agnolo

Michael Galwey
 Inge Harper
 Robert Harper
 Sandy Heunisch
 Richard Hinkel
 Craig Houle
 Jolyn Jones
 Nahida Khraizat
 Chuck Kranz
 Fred Kraps
 Margaret Martin
 Ardith McKinlay
 James Neal
 Eric Orrill
 Donley Pochop
 Brian Romanchuk
 Cindy Romanchuk
 Diane Sasaki
 Marge Sparks
 Bill Trask
 Rita Vautrin
 Beth Vershure
 Rod Werner
 John Wiechmann

Member - \$35 to \$49
 Kellie Adolf
 Kristi Alexander
 Jayne Barry
 Sue Baughman
 Tori Bishop
 Jill Bluhm
 Rita Brady
 Judy Breen
 Carolyn Chaney
 Susan Chesnut
 Deanna Clay De Cou
 Dennis Cooley
 Steve Corvin
 Jennifer DeWitt
 Jesse Dwyer
 Larry Fester
 S Fester
 Ken Fields
 Mike Fimea
 MARRISA GITTISARN
 Bruce Gorman
 Doug Gregory
 Sue Heidtke
 Mark Herman

Diana Hernandez
 Helen Hill
 Ryan Hort
 Donelle Huffer
 Jessica Jackson-Huertas
 Jodi Johnson
 Susan Jones
 Nikki Khraizat
 Roy Kinsey
 James Knott
 Sandra Kualls
 Lisa Kusmin
 Michael Langley
 Steve Larson
 Marie Liddle
 Mari McGourn
 Bruce W McIntyre
 Jeff Merten
 Linda Meyer
 Mark Miller
 Mark Minisce
 Kirk Minnick
 Donald Neuman
 Ted Osmond
 Paul Paonessa
 Austen Pederson
 Allene Pierce-Avey
 Jim Pope
 Rita Rosenthal
 David Sanders
 Beverly Sass
 Ken Satoyoshi
 Wendy Satoyoshi
 Marilyn Schrab
 David Schwartz
 Laine Seaton
 Deb Stevens
 Diane Taulborg
 Jamie Tedeschi
 Nell Teter
 Dave Toon
 Kathleen Tucker
 Jennifer Uretz
 Alison Van Uum
 Liisa Walimaa
 Nancy Wu
 Michael Yares



BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2008



ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo Time Account	\$40,000
PayPal	9,716
Wells Fargo Checking	<u>24,230</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>73,946</u>

Total Current Assets 73,946

TOTAL ASSETS \$73,946

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>\$76</u>
Total Accounts Payable	76

Credit Cards

Capital One	<u>-87</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>-87</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-11</u>

Total Liabilities -11

Equity

Un-restricted Net Assets	72,038
Net Income	<u>1,919</u>
Total Equity	<u>73,957</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$73,946



PROFIT & LOSS

July 1, 2007 through June 30 2008



INCOME

Restricted	
Meal Fees	\$320
Cash donations	604
Contracts	2,840
Training	900
Grants	<u>4,150</u>
Total Restricted	8,814
Unrestricted	
Credit Card Reward	100
Corporate Match	523
Miscellaneous	43
Memberships	11,572
Dividend	1,649
Cash donations	44
Total Unrestricted	<u>13,931</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$22,745</u>

EXPENSES

Travel	
Auto Mileage	\$31
Conference Registration	<u>75</u>
Total Travel	106
Facility Expenses	
Maintenance and Repair	<u>539</u>
Total Facility Expenses	539
Project Expenses	
Fees	30
Professional Services	1,000
Appreciation Items	186
Consumable Supplies	131
Prizes and Awards	100
Project Materials	80
Service Gear	1,836
Tools	177
Volunteer Food	<u>1,331</u>
Total Project Expenses	4,871
Office Expense	
Telephone	830
Internet (ISP & Web Host)	852
Insurance Property & Liability	614
Professional Services	11,925
Photocopies	363
Postage	108
Small Office Furniture	200
Supplies	42
Software	35
Taxes & Licenses	<u>16</u>
Total Office Expense	14,986
Administrative & Board	
Banking/PayPal Fee	307
Dues & Fees	<u>20</u>
Total Administrative & Board	<u>327</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	\$20,827
Net Income	<u>\$1,918</u>