

# Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 24, Issue 1

September, 2010

**'Tis Almost the Season!**

We all know the heat still reigns here in our desert landscape, but it is September, and our season is now underway in spite of the heat. It's time to meet again with other AGA Associate Members at our annual "Meet and Greet". We hope the economic challenges we've experienced these past few seasons are in our rear view mirror, and we're ready to move forward with renewed enthusiasm for a successful new season.

The AGA is pleased to be welcomed by the Scottsdale Plaza Resort and Spa for our September meeting. Many of you are already familiar with this beautiful resort, and have worked programs there. For those who haven't, this is an opportunity to see one of our premier Valley resorts, set on 40 beautifully landscaped acres in the shadow of Camelback Mountain. The resort has 404 Guestrooms - including 180 elegant suites, five swimming pools, lighted tennis courts, fitness center, interior racquetball court, racquetball courts, Arizona's largest whirlpool spa and award winning dining.

## **AGA Fall Meeting ~ September 13, 2010**

**When: Monday, September 13, 2010**

**Where: Scottsdale Plaza Resort ~ 7200 N. Scottsdale Road**

**Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm Meet 'n Greet with Associate Members  
7:30 pm General Meeting**

**There will be a cash bar and light refreshments.**

**Please RSVP by September 6<sup>th</sup> to Joan Moran: 480.538.7999 or  
[joancmoran@cox.net](mailto:joancmoran@cox.net)**

### **AGA President's Notes.....**

**WELCOME BACK!!** I know that we are all looking forward to a new season, one that is busy and prosperous for

all of us. Plans are already underway for our programs and education trips. Make plans now to be a part of them.

Let's make this year one of help and encouragement. I know you will.....

**Jeannie Parrish, AGA President 2010-2011**

## ***In case you missed it...from the Arizona Republic***

***Tops in solar use .....*** Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service Co. and the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative in southern Arizona all rank among the top solar-using utilities in the country, an industry group reported. SRP was the No. 8 utility in the nation for solar use, up from No. 25 last year, according to the Solar Electric Power Association. APS ranked No. 7, down from No. 6 last year. The tiny Sulphur Springs co-op didn't rank among the utilities with the most solar power on its system, but ranked No. 1 in the amount of solar power per customer. It didn't make the list last year.

***Lights are up .....*** and the grass is growing at the Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. Crews laid sod this summer on the practice fields at the \$100 million baseball complex for the Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies. The complex on the Salt River Reservation is scheduled to be finished by the end of January, said Joe Traficano, West Coast Turf sales manager for Arizona. "We're using Tifway 419, a turf that is common for sports fields. It's a Bermuda that grows well in this climate and it's dense. You can mow it low and it handles traffic extremely well." The turf has been growing on a sod farm in Eloy for about 10 months, a few months longer than is typical. Salt River Fields will have 12 practice fields. One will have the same dimensions as Chase Field and one will be the same size as Coors Field in Denver. The complex will include 45 acres of turf on the ball fields and 25 acres for landscaping. Dave Dunne, spring training operations manager for both teams, said he has hired Marshall Jennings as head groundskeeper at Salt River Fields. Jennings spent the past seven years taking care of the ball fields at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla., a spring-training complex for the St. Louis Cardinals and Florida Marlins. Dunne previously was the manager of Hohokam Stadium in Mesa. Stadium construction at Salt River Fields is progressing on schedule. The stadium will have 7,000 seats and space for about 4,000 fans on the berm. Salt River Fields is on 140 acres southwest of Loop 101 and Via de Ventura.

***Remaking Papago Park as tourist hub .....*** Officials believe they have found a way to make Papago Park into an urban tourist attraction in the mold of San Diego's Balboa Park. Members of the executive board for the Discover Papago Park project, which includes Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman and Phoenix Councilman Sal DiCiccio, approved a plan they hope will enhance visitors' experiences at the park. Papago, which spans 2,000 acres in parts of Phoenix and Tempe, is home to some of the Valley's biggest attractions, including the Phoenix Zoo, the Desert Botanical Garden and the Papago Golf Course. The problem, according to the 112-page report detailing the plan, is that most visitors come to the park for one of the attractions and then leave. The City Council members, government employees and tribal leaders involved in Discover Papago Park hope that a visitors center, more parking areas and aggressive cross-promotion will make the park an all-day destination.

"The idea is, you don't say you're going to the zoo. You say you're going to Papago Park, and while you're there, you're going to the zoo and the Botanical Garden," said Marsha Miller, an employee for the consulting agency KDA Creative, one of several consulting firms brought in by the cities to assist in research. Officials working on the project say that will take a major overhaul. The park is managed by many entities, including Salt River Project and the two cities, and they do not do a good job of cross-promoting or collaborating, according to the master plan. At a series of public forums on the project held last year, residents told planners that there was not enough information on getting from one attraction in the park to another. Trails within the park, managed by departments from different cities, are not connected. Many significant landmarks and archeological sites are unmarked.

Last year, the group conducted a study that included research on some of the nation's best-known and widely visited urban parks. The research indicated that successful parks, such as Hermann Park in Houston and the Golden Gate Bridge National Recreation Area in San Francisco, share a few key traits. For example, those parks promote an identity of "park first, attraction second," meaning they portray the park itself as a single destination with many attractions. Like Papago, Zion National Park in Utah and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area near Los Angeles are managed by many different public and private entities that work closely together on promoting events and making improvements. Many of these parks are funded in part by private conservancies. Tempe recreation administrator Shaun Wagner said he would like to implement some of those practices in running Papago, and administrators are looking at putting in kiosks with pamphlets and maps showing visitors how to go from one attraction to another.

Officials acknowledge the process could take years, particularly with the cities scrambling to balance budgets in the face of falling revenue. Ricardo Leonard, a council member in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, said he expects serious work to begin within the next two years, but it depends heavily on the economy. Phoenix parks supervisor Tim Merritt said parts of the plan, including connecting trails across city boundaries, could begin as early as next year if enough volunteers were willing to help. Other projects, including a multimillion-dollar visitors center, would likely take many years.

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**Ritz-Carlton's hotels to ditch plastic bottles .....** To wean itself off of plastic and boost its "green" reputation, 40 of Ritz-Carlton's 73 hotels will switch to plant-based, biodegradable material for their water bottles - a move that's believed to be a first among hotel chains. The hotels making the switch are in the U.S. and the Caribbean. Chainwide, the company goes through through about 5 million, 16-oz., water bottles per year, according to the Marriott-owned brand. Ritz-Carlton hotels provide the bottled water to guests at jogging stations, in guestrooms for turn-down service and in pool areas. Valets also leave a bottle of water behind for a guest after retrieving their vehicle for them.

According to Ritz-Carlton's press release: The new bottles are made 100% from plants, are all natural, can decompose in 30 days in a commercial composting facility, or can be reprocessed and remade 100% into new bottles. Making one new bottle uses 49% less fossil fuels, 45% less energy, and 75% less greenhouse gases than a classic bottle. About two years ago, Ritz-Carlton chief Simon Cooper challenged his management team to find a better solution for bottled water. "Plastic bottles are made from crude oil, take a significant amount of energy to produce, and less than 20% are sent to recycling facilities," Cooper said in a statement. "Even when recycled, these bottles cannot be used to make the same quality of plastic." Finding the right bottle vendor involved 18 months of research and ultimately led the chain to Prima™, which is

manufacturing the new, 16-oz. bottles for Ritz-Carlton. The precise timing of when each hotel will make the switch will depend on their plastic-bottle inventory, Denise Naguib, Marriott's corporate director of environmental program, wrote me in an email. She expects the hotels to have a supply of new bottles within a month. The change isn't a cost cutting move, although Ritz-Carlton stands to save some money on the new bottles up front. The environmentally friendly bottles - with a price break for the first 18 months - will cost the same as the old bottles, underscoring the fact that going green can sometimes add costs for companies. Whether a hotel's water bottles are green or not may sound like a small detail, but it can be a big deal to people who want their hotels and hotel events to be green.

Washington D.C.-based meetings consultant Joan Eisenstodt said the move to environmentally friendly water bottles should go over well, considering the growing desire among companies and groups to ensure sustainable meetings. "There have been lots of discussions about water usage," Eisenstodt said. "If we don't use bottled, we get pitchers with questionably clean ice and glasses, or those large "tank-like" things that no one is ever sure about. People like individual bottles and this makes sense." The backlash against water bottles has been growing for years, and has lately started taking on new momentum. For instance, a small organic food chain - Bowie, Md.-based MOM's Organic Market - stopped selling bottled water last week as part of its "Battle the Bottle" campaign. Noting the alarming rate by which oceans are being contaminated by plastic, the stores now sell only water from a filtration machine.

**Talking Stick Resort** .... is open after a delay of more than two months. The adjacent Casino Arizona opened April 14 on the Salt River reservation, northeast of Loop 101 and Indian Bend Road. The hotel opened in time for Independence Day weekend, and the delayed opening involved testing a fire-safety system intended to clear smoke from the building if a fire broke out. The 15-story, \$440 million casino hotel includes 497 rooms, 240,000 square feet of gaming, a spa, and penthouse-level restaurant called Orange Sky. The resort should be completed by October. The Casino Arizona at Talking Stick is hosted the sixth annual Arizona State Poker Tournament in August. It was expected to attract 900 players vying for \$1 million in prize money, with the winner taking home \$312,500.

**Demand buoys Arizona cotton farmers** ..... It's one of the state's 5 C's, though it's had some hard times during the recession. Arizona cotton farmers have weathered many ups and downs, but for many Arizona cotton farmers in the state, it's looking like an up year. Purchases of cloth products from bath towels to jeans have boosted demand for the fiber and improved prospects for growers in Arizona and around the world. U.S. farmers have booked sales of 6.25 million bales of cotton this year, more than twice as much as the previous year, according to the US Department of Agriculture. A cotton bale weighs 480 pounds. Globally, production will fail to keep pace with demand for the fifth consecutive year, the agency said. That should bode well for cotton farmers in the state.


Growers in Arizona planted 188,000 acres of cotton this year, up 28 percent from a year ago, according to USDA data published in August. Cotton in Arizona, which is mostly the upland variety but includes a small amount of higher-quality Pima cotton, is grown primarily along the Interstate 10 corridor from Tucson to Phoenix. Most of the harvest begins in October. During the recession, cotton farmers could hardly give cotton away. Now they're seeing a huge demand and big premiums, so farmers want to grow cotton again. Cotton farmers typically lock in prices on the futures market, sometimes before cotton is harvested. The real challenge is deciding when to lock in prices, according to an associate extension specialist with the University of Arizona's department of agriculture resources and economics. Cotton prices on Intercontinental Exchange Futures U.S. in New York have more than doubled since the textile industry's collapse during the recession, when cotton plunged to 39.23 cents a pound in November 2008.

Last week, cotton prices reached 87.71 cents a pound, the highest since March 6, 2008. "Anytime you can get a price over 70 cents a pound, you are in nirvana," said Rick Lavis, executive vice president of the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, a trade group that represents the state's 900 growers. Farms, cotton gins, merchants, warehouses and mills in Arizona bring an estimated \$258 million each year to the state's economy, according to data from the National Cotton Council of America. For the first time in five years, U.S. exports are expected to expand, jumping by as much as 25 percent, the USDA said. Cotton prices gained this year as floods and landslides in China, the world's largest grower, and Pakistan, the fourth-largest grower, curbed cotton output. India halted exports in April to cool prices and provide relief to mills. The country announced last week that it will ease restrictions on exports beginning Oct. 1.

Arizona's cotton acreage declined in recent years as land was sold for development, cotton prices collapsed and farmers chose to plant more lucrative crops like alfalfa. U.S. farmers will harvest 18.53 million bales this year, up 52 percent from a year ago, USDA data show. The global harvest is expected to jump 14 percent to 116.85 million bales, the most in three years, the department said.

## ***Airport News.....***

***Sky Harbor Airport gets new body scanner .....*** travelers preparing to board flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's Terminal 4 can choose between two screenings: a new X-ray scan or a metal-detector scan and possible pat down by federal airport security. The airport and Transportation Security Administration formally unveiled one of the newly installed backscatter body scanners, a bulky doorway that uses low-level X-rays to create a computer image showing whether passengers are carrying weapons or bomb-making materials.

 Phoenix Sky Harbor is one of the 32 airports nationwide that have the body-imaging machines, which highlight threatening items, even substances that aren't made of metal. The airport first tested the machine in 2007. Nationwide, installation of the backscatter and a similar screener, the millimeter wave, has been gradual. TSA officials said they hastened plans after the "underwear bomb" that Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was accused of trying to detonate Christmas Day on a Northwest flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. When the TSA officially began using the new scanner at Terminal 4, it posted signs at checkpoints telling passengers they could go through the backscatter or the more-familiar metal detector.

Eighty percent of the nearly 3 million Phoenix passengers each month funnel through Terminal 4 for flights by Air Canada, AeroMexico, British Airways, Southwest Airlines and US Airways, federal officials say. Passengers must still remove their shoes and empty their pockets, no matter which scanner they choose. TSA security manager Dennis Hayne said passengers may save time with the backscatter. He guessed that the metal detector takes about 10 seconds while the backscatter takes five seconds. "And it will detect more threats," he said. The device was deemed safe by the Food and Drug Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The amount of radiation from backscatter screening is equivalent to two minutes of flight on an airplane, according to the TSA website. The scan involves at least two TSA officers. One coaches the passenger through while another officer sits at a computer monitor in a nearby locked room. A slightly revealing, chalky image of the front and back of the passenger appears, with dark outlines flagging suspicious items that may merit a pat down and further inquiry. The face is indiscernible. Genitalia are clearly in the image. The officer in the tiny room cannot carry a cellphone or camera - a measure to assure passengers their privacy is protected, said Dwayne Baird, a TSA spokesman. The officer communicates with co-workers by radio. Baird said as soon as the passenger is cleared for boarding, the image is deleted, and no record remains. The officer cannot leave the room until the passenger has left the checkpoint area.

Despite these efforts, hundreds of people have complained about the machines. TSA phone-call records posted online show more than 400 people from May 2009 to January complained about the machines, with many calling them "unconstitutional" and an "invasion of privacy." But TSA is installing more, adding a confidential number of backscatters at the other Phoenix terminals. The agency projects that by the end of next year, 1,100 body-imaging machines will be operating nationwide. The machines cost about \$170,000 each. Federal stimulus funds paid for them.

***Sky Harbor raises daily economy parking rate .....*** As of July, you'll have to pay a little more to leave your car for a day in the economy lots at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Airport officials said the daily rates for economy parking, as well as for spots in the upper level of Terminal 2, increase by a \$1:

- West and East uncovered economy lots are now \$9.
- East economy garages, A and B, increase to \$11.
- The uncovered economy lot on the upper level of Terminal 2 is now \$11.

Signs have been posted to notify drivers of the rate hike. The last time the airport raised the economy parking rates was in 2006, Sky Harbor spokeswoman Deborah Ostreicher said. Back then, the daily rate was increased by \$3.

City records show the number of drivers parking at the airport has dropped significantly over the past five years, from 4.2 million transactions in 2005 to an estimated 3.3 million last year. Although fewer drivers left their cars at the airport during that period, revenue increased from \$59.4 million to \$69.1 million. City Manager David Cavazos said he believes the recession prompted more people either to leave their cars at home or park in cheaper lots outside the airport. The startup of light rail, which includes a stop near an airport-shuttle depot, may also have been a factor, he said.

## **News from the Arizona Office of Tourism** **(AZOT) .....**

**Passport Fees Go Up .....** Charges for U.S. passports have gone up. That means a passport for those 16 and over is now from \$100 to \$135. Travelers under 16 pay \$105, up from \$85. Passport cards, which can be used to travel by land or sea to and from Canada, Mexico and non-U.S. parts of the Caribbean, will cost more, too - \$55 for adults, up from \$45; \$40 for a minor, up from \$35.

**Good news .....** Five of the state's highway rest areas, closed since last fall, reopened this July. In addition, crews began repairing four other closed rest areas with the goal of reopening these facilities this fall. Four rest areas will remain closed due to serious repair issues, and the five rest areas not previously closed by budget cuts will remain open. When ADOT temporarily closed 13 of its 18 rest areas last October as a cost-savings measure, it pledged to reevaluate the closures before this July, the start of the 2011 fiscal year. Each year, Arizona spends about \$320,000 per rest area for maintenance, electricity and water services. Using careful planning and budgeting, coupled with a slightly improved revenue picture, ADOT officials are confident that reopening up to nine rest areas is not only financially feasible but also the right thing to do.

Rest areas set to open by the end of July include: Ehrenberg (I-10), Canoa Ranch (I-19), Meteor Crater (I-40), Sacaton (I-10) and San Simon (I-10).

Rest areas that will require additional repair before being reopened, possibly this fall, include: Bouse Wash (I-10), Hassayampa (US 60), Haviland (I-40) and McGuireville (I-17).

Four rest areas – Mazatzal (SR 87), Mohawk (I-8), Parks (I-40) and Salt River Canyon (US 60) – will remain closed due to serious repair issues.

Rest areas that have remained open are Burnt Well (I-10), Painted Cliffs (I-40), Sunset Point (I-17), Sentinel (I-8) and Texas Canyon (I-10).

Visit ADOT's Travel Information site at [az511](http://az511), call 5-1-1 within Arizona, or 1.888.411.ROAD outside the state for current information regarding road conditions statewide. Sign up for ADOT email updates, including weekend freeway restrictions, at [www.azdot.gov](http://www.azdot.gov).

**Arizona Well Featured by International Tour Operators .....** The Arizona Office of Tourism targets international travelers from the Canada, Mexico, Japan, UK, Germany (including German-speaking Austria and Switzerland) and France and has in-market representatives in all countries. Every year the international reps complete an inventory of all tour operators in their market who offer product in Arizona. Over 50 Canadian tour operators feature Arizona travel product, an increase of 8 percent over 2009. We can attribute several factors to the increase in offerings - more consumer outreach over the last few years, more non-stop air service and the increase and eventual parity of the Canadian dollar to the US dollar. In 2010 there were 23 tour operators in Mexico who offered product to Arizona, a decrease from 25 operators in the previous year. A strong US dollar coupled with the loss of Aeromexico's nonstop air service from Mexico City in the previous year has continued to have a negative effect on this market. Again for 2010, the Japanese product inventory will include both the written data and scanned brochure pages. There are currently 96 tour operators featuring Arizona in the UK, an increase of 16 percent over the previous year. Of this total 35 percent of the tour operators are offering their product on-line, an increase from 16 percent in 2009. Arizona is heavily featured in the German speaking market and the current product inventory shows an increase of 9 percent, with 112 tour operators offering the destination compared to 103 in 2009. Six operators no longer feature Arizona but Arizona product was introduced by 15 new tour operators. There number of operators in France offer product in Arizona has increased from 74 in 2009 to 81 in 2010. Additionally, the number of itineraries including Arizona increased 16.5 percent from 391 in 2009 to 455 in 2010. The number of on-line tour operators increased 24 percent from 25 to 31.

**Meetings Industry Appears to be on the Mend .....** After months of declining demand and uncertainty, the U.S. meetings industry appears to be on the mend, according to a new survey of 505 professional meeting planners that was commissioned by the Professional Convention Management Association, the PCMA Education Foundation and American Express. Conducted last spring by Ypartnership, the survey found that meeting planners intend to book 15 percent more meetings-an average of 17 more meetings per planner-in 2010 than they did in 2009, and 24 percent more-again, an average of 17 more meetings per planner-in 2011. Planners aren't just expecting more meetings, however. They're also expecting to plan larger meetings. In fact,

one in four planners expect a budget increase this year, versus just 8 percent last year.  
([www.MiMegasite.com](http://www.MiMegasite.com)).

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## ***News from the Grand Canyon.....***

**Grand Canyon West to Open New Welcome Center and Air Terminal in July .....** Grand Canyon West, Arizona's fourth busiest airport and home to the world-renowned Skywalk, is opening a new welcome center and air terminal in July 2010. The new facilities total nearly 20,000 square feet which will double the current amount of available space. The new and improved structures will contain all guest services including concierge, ticketing, gift shop, air tour terminal, hop-on-hop-off shuttle station, espresso bar and café. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is expected to be on July 10, 2010 which will be an invitation only event hosted by the Hualapai Nation.

Grand Canyon West Airport's new runway will open by the end of 2010. The new runway is 5000 feet long and 75 feet wide with adjacent helipads accommodating both fixed-wing and helicopters. Visitors are arriving at Grand Canyon West from more than 30 different tour suppliers from Nevada and Arizona including helicopter, airplane and ground companies. The new runway and facilities will make air tours from Southern California to Grand Canyon West possible.

"These new facilities will ensure our visitors have the best experience and will help us share the beauty of Grand Canyon West with people that may not have had the opportunity to visit us otherwise," said Robert Bravo Jr., CEO of Grand Canyon Resort Corporation. "We are particularly interested in developing air transportation to Grand Canyon West for people in the Los Angeles area. Some flyers at LAX last 6-8 hour, which is plenty of time to experience Grand Canyon West." Over 400,000 cubic yards of solid limestone were blasted and excavated to construct the new runway that meets the FAA recommended length, width and gradient standards. The runway has all of the modern safety features including signage, lighting, visual aids and emergency services required for both day and night usage. Grand Canyon West Airport started as a gravel air strip in the late 80's serving air tours in fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters from Las Vegas. Air traffic grew quickly and the Tribe paved the airstrip in the late 90's. Since then, the airport was accepted into the national airport system as an official part 139 airport and has become one of Arizona's most active airports.

The welcome center will be the primary hub for Grand Canyon West visitors for 2 to 3 years while the permanent structures are being completed. Long term plans for the airport will include fueling operations, a weather station and further facility improvements. Grand Canyon West's operations are open from dusk until dawn 365 days a year. Visitors can view a complete list of activities, book reservations, and get directions at [www.grandcanyonwest.com](http://www.grandcanyonwest.com) or by calling 1-888-868-9378 - internationally at (001)-928-769-2636.

**Trail of Time .....** While at Grand Canyon National Park, plan to visit the Trail of Time exhibition, a giant timeline trail along the rim that lets you experience Grand Canyon geology. The entry portals show the rock layers and the trail is marked every meter with a bronze time marker, so that each step equals one million years of our planet's history. Grand Canyon rocks are displayed along the trail and viewing tubes help you connect the rocks visible in Grand Canyon to their age along the timeline. This project is aimed at helping improve public understanding of the vital connection between human time scales and the million-year heartbeat of the Earth. Currently under construction, the exhibition will be fully installed in October 2010.

## ***Education .....***

**Fall Education Trip .....** Mark your calendars for the AGA Fall education trip – November 10, 2010. The trip will include: Usery Mt Regional park and nature center tour (free), Desert Belle on Saguaro Lake (free), and River of time Museum in Ft. Hills (\$3pp.). There will be a box lunch and driver's gratuity covered in the fee which will be announced soon.

**Are you thinking .....** about taking AGA Certified Guide test? Contact the Certification chair, Betsy Todd for more information: [betsy\\_todd@g.com](mailto:betsy_todd@g.com) or call her at 602.943.2900.

***Sample Certification Test Question: What is Arizona's state reptile?***

## Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates...

**Local-Motion Cultural Trolley Tours Continue .....** Free Cultural Trolley tours of Downtown Scottsdale take place at 10:30 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. The tours begin in the parking lot on the northwest corner of Brown Avenue and Second Street. From there attendees tour the Old Mission and then board a trolley for a two-hour guided tour of the arts district, Civic Center campus, Hotel Valley Ho, Southbridge and the Waterfront area. Reservations are required -- call (480) 634-6850.

**Preserve Gateway Selected 'Building of the Week' by World-Architects.com .....** The Web site world-architects.com selected the Gateway to Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve as its "Building of the Week." The Web site represents a network of outstanding architects, landscape architects, engineers, interior designers, lighting consultants and architectural photographers. It brings designers, clients and contractors together in the goal of advancing quality in architecture. The Gateway recognition reads "Phoenix is known for its insatiable thirst for land and water, an unsustainable trend in need of reconsideration. While small, this project by local architects Weddle Gilmore black rock studio could have a big impact towards reorienting how residents think about the area's urban and natural landscape." For more information, visit <http://www.american-architects.com/>.

**Additional Parking Stalls Coming to the Gateway Access Area .....** Work began in June, to increase parking capacity by about 100 stalls at the Gateway Access Area to Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The additional parking was planned as part of Phase II of the project and will accommodate an increase in visitors since the Gateway opened in May 2009. Construction crews also will work on maintenance issues for the entry road. For more information, call (480) 312-7013 or visit [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve.asp](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve.asp).



**How many familiar products are 'MADE IN ARIZONA'? Here's a few .....**

**Cactus Candy Company ~ Candy, jelly and apparel manufacturer, Phoenix. Established: 1942.**  
Cactus Candy has been made in Phoenix since 1942, using sugar and prickly pear juice. The company also manufactures jellies, salsas and syrups made of products found in the Sonoran Desert.

**Cold Stone Creamery ~ Ice cream parlor chain, Scottsdale. Established: 1988.**  
The company's main product is super premium ice cream, or ice cream made with approximately 12-14% butterfat, that is made on location and customized to order for customers at the time of purchase.

**Shamrock Foods ~ Food-related products, Phoenix. Established: 1922.**  
Shamrock Farms is the largest dairy in the Southwest, and Shamrock Foods is the seventh-largest U.S. foodservice distributor.

**Cavco ~ Manufactured housing, Phoenix. Established: 1965.**  
Cavco is one of the largest producers of manufactured housing and cabin vacation homes in the United States.

**TASER International ~ Protection products, Scottsdale. Established: 1993.**  
TASER International's protection products, like stun guns, are used in the law enforcement, medical, military, correctional, professional security, and personal protection markets.

**Morton Salt ~ Salt manufacturer, Glendale. Established: 1969.**  
Salt production at the Glendale facility began in 1969 by the Southwest Salt Company. Morton Salt purchased the facility from Southwest Salt in 1985.



***Ping Golf Clubs ~ Gold equipment maker, Phoenix. Established: 1959.***

The family-owned company's game-improvement products can be found in more than 70 countries.

***Queen Creek Olive Mill ~ Olive and olive oil producer, Queen Creek. Established: 2005.***

Family-owned Queen Creek Olive Mill is Arizona's only working olive farm & mill. In addition to extra virgin olive oil, the company produces other food items like spreads and stuffed olives, as well as bath and skin care products.

***Hickman's Family Farms ~ Egg farm, Buckeye, Arizona. Established: 1944.***

Hickman's is the largest egg producer in Arizona. Hickman's eggs are sold in nearly every grocery store in the state.

***Poore Bros. Chips ~ Inventure Group snack food manufacturer, Phoenix. Established 1996.***

10 varieties of Poore Brothers chips are manufactured in Goodyear, southwest of Phoenix, and sold throughout the United States.

***GET OUTSIDE !!***

***Yes, it's still hot, but these hikes are guaranteed to cool you off !!***

***Shoofly Village .....*** Located in the Tonto National Forest, on the northern edge of Houston Mesa five miles north of Payson, Shoofly Village archeological site offers visitors a glimpse of an ancient Arizona culture. The 4-acre compound is comprised of 87 ruins occupied between 1000 and 1250 BCE by people who farmed and hunted the surrounding high-desert grasslands. A network of paved trails winds among crumbling foundations, courtyards and a massive prehistoric "condominium," while abundant interpretive signs, picnic ramadas and restrooms make for a modern, convenient and educational day trip.

**Length:** .25-mile loop; **Rating:** easy; **Elevation:** 5,240-5,280 feet; **Getting there:** From Payson, go 2 miles north on State Highway 87 to Houston Mesa Road, turn right and continue to Mesa del Caballo, where there's a sign for the ruins. Information: 602-225-5200 or visit [paysonrimcountry.com/MountainRecreation/InterpretiveCenters/ShooflyIndianRuins/tabid/141/Default.aspx](http://paysonrimcountry.com/MountainRecreation/InterpretiveCenters/ShooflyIndianRuins/tabid/141/Default.aspx).

***Hart Prairie Preserve (The Nature Conservancy, Flagstaff).....*** Before the arrival of European settlers on the western slopes of Flagstaff's San Francisco Mountain, Hart Prairie was a healthy patchwork of meadows, willow-cluttered wetlands, rings of aspens and a smattering of pines where regular, low-intensity, natural fires and a community of top-tier predators helped keep the ecological balance in check. Over the past hundred years, the effects of altered hydrology, fire suppression, and the introduction of invasive plants and non-indigenous animals have transformed the landscape. In 1994, private landowners donated 245 acres of Hart Prairie along with an historic lodge and guest cabins to The Nature Conservancy. Since then, the nonprofit organization has set out to restore the alpine meadows to their former natural state through creative collaboration with the forest service, local landowners and other conservation groups. This ambitious restoration project is a work in progress and is open to visitors only through guided nature walks offered every Sunday from June 13 to October 10 (except September 12). The 90-minute walks are easy and cover topics such as topography, willow biology and wet meadow dynamics.

**Elevation:** 8,500 feet; **Getting there:** Tour groups meet at 10 a.m. at the Fort Valley Plaza Shopping Center, 1000 N. Humphreys St., at the southwest corner by the guardrail. Reservations are not required. Participants must wear sturdy shoes and bring sun protection, rain gear and plenty of water. No pets or food are allowed in the preserve; **Fees:** Tours are free; however, donations are appreciated.

***Certification Test ~ Sample Question Answer : Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake.***

## ***The Arizona Coach Talker***

*AGA Newsletter*

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**Tis Almost the Season!**

[www.arizonaguides.org](http://www.arizonaguides.org)

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### ***Websites to visit ....***

Check on upcoming events in Scottsdale at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/events/>.

Here are just a few of the most common blooms that lurk underfoot on Arizona trails, organized A-to-Z by flower name.

[http://www.phoenixmag.com/html/publish to web A-J/wildflowersA J.html](http://www.phoenixmag.com/html/publish%20to%20web%20A-J/wildflowersA%20J.html).

[http://www.phoenixmag.com/html/publish to web M-Z/wildflowersM Z.html](http://www.phoenixmag.com/html/publish%20to%20web%20M-Z/wildflowersM%20Z.html).

*~ SEE YOU ALL SOON ~*

***TAKE TIME TO VISIT THIS ARIZONA INFO ON LINE ~ AND LEARN!!!***