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Open House: Tour Toad Hall and Greenhouse

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, March 9th from 9am to 7pm, featuring tours of both Toad Hall and our greenhouse facilities. You, our friends of CNUW, we cordially invite to attend this event, where you can view the different desert species on display, and be encouraged to ask any questions you may have. The tours given will be reminiscent of the Education tours we give every Tuesday and Thursday starting in the spring each year, focusing on the conservation and preservation of native wildlife here in our desert home. If you have not visited Toad Hall or the campus greenhouse before, you'll be surprised and delighted to observe the variety of life here in Arizona, including the Sonoran Desert tortoise babies born here on campus last fall, and the Lowland Leopard frogs, which will soon be housed in our newly built indoor frog exhibit. The Lowland Leopard frog is one of the many amphibious landmark species whose population numbers have been in steady or marked decline due to loss of habitat/ habitat degradation, air and water pollution and the introduction of non-native predator species, like the American Bullfrog. CNUW is among many organizations devoted to conservation of native wildlife concerned with the declining numbers of this species, and we hope, with the addition of the more stable indoor frog exhibit, to have greater success in breeding this species for the purpose of their reintroduction into natural habitat, which for these particular frogs will be at selected areas on Cave Creek.

With heartfelt thanks for all your generous support and assistance these past five years; we again invite you to our Open House, and encourage you to observe what your assistance has helped to yield, and to further appreciate our continuing and future goals.



Toad Hall serves as CNUW's learning center and as a gateway for elementary school tours. It includes interactive panels, live animal displays, and a wall mural of Sonoran Desert neighbors (shown above).

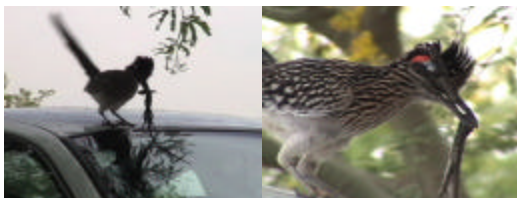
Meet Your DesertNeighbors: Feature: Greater Roadrunner

A Unique Resident at S.C.C.

By : Kathleen Grigg

Meep! Meep! Did you see that? A large bird just ran through the parking lot. What? A big running bird? Was it just an illusion? No, it was our campus roadrunner making his daily rounds. Chances are if you arrive on campus early enough in the morning, you may just catch a glimpse of him as he flashes by. If you happen to startle him by nearing too closely, he may stop briefly to raise an impressive crest atop his head, then dash away to go about his business.

These unusual birds make their living on the ground, lacking as they do, the normative ability to take flight for longer than a few seconds. They can reach a running speed of up to 17 mph. They are usually 10-12 inches in height, and can reach up to 24 inches in length. The roadrunner's diet consists of insects, lizards and snakes; this bird is even tough enough to take down a rattlesnake for lunch! The males of this species are even persistent enough to bring the female small gifts like lizards to court her—although sometimes the male mistakes his own reflection in a car window for the female! (see picture, below). Contrary to the popular Warner Brothers© cartoon, the roadrunner's vocals sound more like the coo of a dove than a "meep." So if you happen to be lucky enough to site this amazing creature while driving around on campus, kindly slow down to let this special pedestrian pass by!



Meet the Members of CNUW: Member Bio:

Many of you have probably seen the employees and volunteers of CNUW on campus—tilling our propagation yards, digging around in the pond by the Student Center, weeding the Peace Garden, or working in a variety of other capacities, but you may be unacquainted with each member's name, particular goals, and unique/reasons and interests for being involved with our organization. In each future issue of CNEWS, we'd like to introduce you to one of our employees or volunteers, and tell you a little bit about each one.

"I just recently joined CNUW, and am really enjoying the experience. After several years of working in retail, I decided to go back to college to pursue a Law degree. A few semesters later, after enrolling in Roy Barnes's Environmental Biology class, all my career plans changed. Much to even my own surprise, I had become utterly enamored with the natural environment and the variety of life that occupies our planet, and have since decided to major in Conservation Biology. I'd studied the impact of human activities on well known endangered species like tigers, and on the degradation of the rainforests. . .yet after touring CNUW's facilities, and listening to its message, I wanted to somehow become involved in helping to preserve the amazing biodiversity that exists right here in Arizona. . .the leopard frogs and saguaro cacti, the mountain lions and the Peregrine Falcons. . .amazing creatures that I'd like to still be able to be awed by when I'm an old woman--I want to in some way help to ensure that those same creatures will still be around then. . . so I'm getting involved now."--Adrianna DeFranco



Note of Thanks:

Dear Friends of CNUW,

In January of 2005, the Center for the Native and Urban Wildlife at SCC celebrated five years of existence. It has been an exciting journey down a road filled with bumps, surprises and great satisfaction for CNUW's employees and students. We could never have made it this far down that road if it were not for the help of a great many people, including each of you. To take one more opportunity to personally thank each of you, we would also like to invite you to please come and visit us during an all-day open house on Wednesday, March 9th. If you've ever wondered what happens inside of SCC's greenhouse or what goes on inside the mighty fortress known as Toad Hall, please come meet our students and learn more about CNUW and the good work we've done.

Roy A. Barnes-Director CNUW

Stacy Pratt-Assistant Director
CNUW

CNUW's Fifth Anniversary:

In this, CNUW's fifth year of operation, we would like to acknowledge our new and tenured members. With the continued support of friends like you, we've been able to broaden and expand our employee and volunteer base, and to further ensure that conservation of native wildlife is an educational goal and an increasing success story. (Photo courtesy of John Fitzpatrick.)



(From left to right: Front Row: Ray Leimkuehler, Kathleen Grigg, Dorian Sellers, Tramy Huynh, Adrianna Defranco; Back Row: Andrew Cummings, Dr. Patty Ashby, John Weser, Chad Norman, Christopher Kolstad, Roy Barnes, Jean Rigden, Stacy Pratt).