

# BELLASERA

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Sonoran Desert  
Summer by Monica Siri

Page 2 - Clubhouse Corner

Page 3 - Bellasera Community  
Events

Page 4 & 5 - July & August  
Calendars

Page 6 - Notices & Weather

Page 7 - Defensible Space  
Guidelines

Page 8 - Classifieds

Page 9 & 10 - Rear View

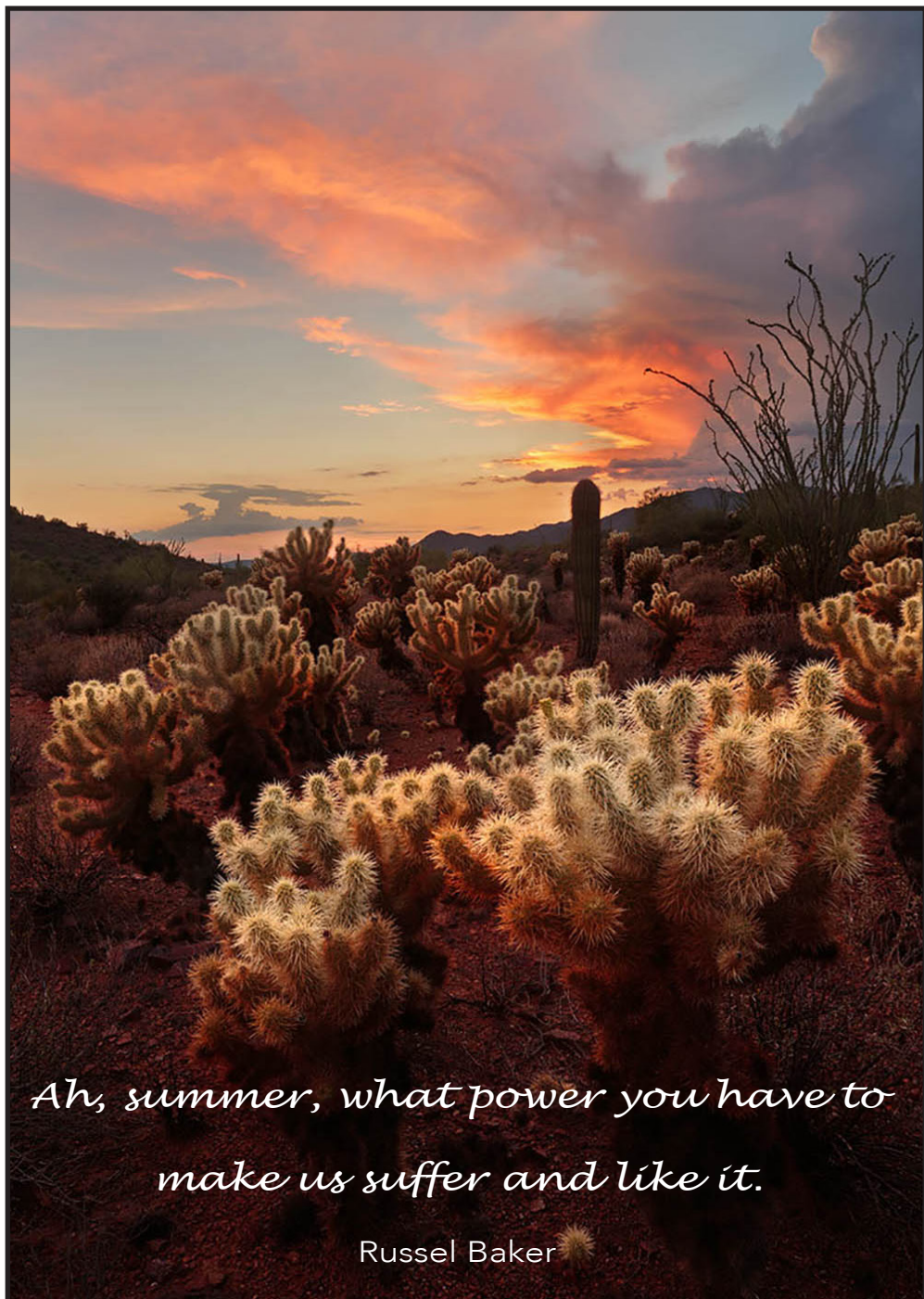
Page 11 - 13 - July and August  
in the Garden

Page 14 - Our Heroes - a poem

Page 15 - Trim Trees Before the  
Monsoons Arrive

Page 16 - The Warmer Side of  
the Elusive Bobcat

Page 17 - BCA Information



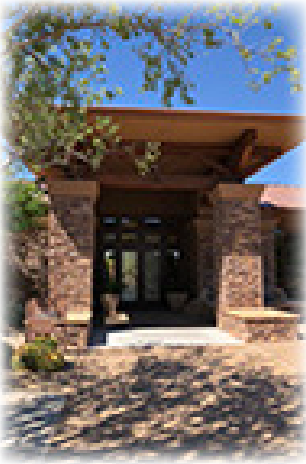
*Ah, summer, what power you have to  
make us suffer and like it.*

Russel Baker

July and August - 2020

# Clubhouse Corner

by Richard Hoffman - Board President



## **New Protocols for Clubhouse Office Visits**

Considering the ongoing rise in Covid-19 cases in Scottsdale, the Board has adopted a new protocol for visits

to the management office in the clubhouse at the Bellasera Board's regular meeting held on June 24th. Effective immediately, anyone visiting the management office is required to wear a face mask or other cloth covering. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## **Use of Clubhouse, Pool and Fitness Center**

I hope everyone is, once again, enjoying the use of our recreational facilities. As a reminder, please continue to follow the guidelines that we outlined when the facilities were reopened as the Covid-19 pandemic is not over, especially here in Arizona. A summary of rules/guidelines that are to be strictly followed:

1. Use of the community pool and fitness center shall be strictly limited to homeowners/residents and guests staying with those homeowner/residents. No outside guests are permitted.
2. Residents should wipe down fitness equipment both before and after each use. Disinfecting wipes for that purpose are currently available in the fitness area.
3. Please attempt to practice social distancing maintaining a distance of 6 feet from other users.

Make use of hand sanitizers that are available just inside side door to clubhouse and just inside the door to the pool. However, we strongly encourage homeowners/residents

to bring their own hand sanitizers and wipes with them when they visit as these items are scarce.

**Remember: Homeowners/Residents That Decide to Use the Community Pool, Fitness Center, Or Our Other Recreational Facilities, Even with These Procedures in Place, Do So at Their Own Risk.**

## **Fireworks and July 4th In Bellasera**

While you may have seen fireworks on display and for sale in local grocery, drug (CVS) and hardware (Ace) stores in Scottsdale, please be aware that it is a violation of the Scottsdale City Code to actually set off fireworks within the City Limits. Setting off fireworks in Bellasera is not only illegal, it is especially dangerous during our heightened summer wildfire situation in Arizona.



Photo by Paul Rippens

# BELLASERA COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Bellasera Book Club:** Our book club will be spending summer on the hunt for selections for the fall. We look forward to discussing what we find with our group. **Karen Moore (kkmoore40@yahoo.com).**

**Water Aerobics Invitation:** Water aerobics group is meeting almost every morning at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. As the weather gets hotter, they'll meet earlier and earlier, trying to stay out of the full sun. Social distancing will be observed. This is not the group whose meeting times is shown on the calendar. For additional information contact **Linda Sotnick, lindagschwend@gmail.com.**

---

## **Mountain Lions**

There have been recent reports of mountain lion sightings in Bellasera. Do not approach a mountain lion. Most wild animals will try to avoid a human confrontation. Give them a way to safely escape. Do not run from a mountain lion. Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Stand and face the animal. Make eye contact. Protect small children so they won't panic and run. Stay calm and speak loudly and firmly. Appear larger: raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you may be a danger to it. Slowly back away from the area. Fight back if attacked: many potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the animal.

--Arizona Game & Fish

---

## **Ike Ironwood—Bellasera Private Detective**

After some minutes I was awakened from my reverie by the crack of the walkie-talkie. "Boss, it's the man and woman again. They are in the same cove. They've come to a stop and now are rustling around for stuff in the bottom of the boat. Wait, I think they just threw something overboard..." I told Palo to let me know of any further development and nodded off while my Burrito Supreme digested. After about twenty minutes the walkie-talkie squawked again. "It looks like they've pulled something up, maybe an anchor or something. Now he's rowing toward the shore - toward the old cabin on the bank." I told Palo not to follow them, I would approach the house from the road. I swung the car around and headed up the wooded road. I parked about a quarter of a mile from the house; I didn't want them to hear me coming. I left the road and crept up to the ramshackle, boarded-up structure. I could see the skiff pulled up on the shore so I figured they both must be in the cabin. Crouching, I approached a side door. I tried it. To my surprise, it was unlocked. This was easy I thought. Maybe a little too easy. I let go of the handle and crept up toward the lake side of the cabin. I was just below a window now and could hear a man and a woman talking. I retraced my steps and went back to the door. I opened it slowly and tucked in. I was in a small mud room. Keeping low, I turned into the hallway. The talking had stopped. I heard a loud cracking noise behind me and something brushed my cheek. It was the floor.

- to be continued.



# JULY 2020

## Belllasera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	2	3 Water Aerobics - 10 am	4 
5	6 Water Aerobics - 10 am	7 Modification meeting - 12:30 pm	8 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	9	10 Water Aerobics - 10 am	11 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
12	13 Water Aerobics - 10 am	14 Building & Grounds meet- ing - 10 am	15 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	16	17 Water Aerobics - 10 am	18 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
19	20 Water Aerobics - 10 am	21 Budget & Finance Com- mittee meeting - 1 pm	22 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	23	24 Water Aerobics - 10 am	25 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
26	27 Water Aerobics - 10 am	28	29 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am Board Meeting - 1 pm	30	31 Water Aerobics - 10 am	
<b>BULK PICK-UP WEEK</b>						

# AUGUST 2020

## Bellasera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<sup>1</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am
<sup>2</sup>	<sup>3</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>4</sup>	<sup>5</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>7</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>8</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am
<sup>9</sup>	<sup>10</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>11</sup> Modifications Committee meeting - 12:30 pm	<sup>12</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am Building & Grounds meet- ing - 10 am	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>15</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am
<sup>16</sup>	<sup>17</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>20</sup>	<sup>21</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>22</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am
<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>25</sup>	<sup>26</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>27</sup>	<sup>28</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>29</sup> Pickleball Open play - 8 am
<b>BULK PICK-UP WEEK</b>						
<sup>30</sup>	<sup>31</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am					

## Meeting Notices

**Board of Directors** will meet on **Wednesday, July 29** at **1 p.m.**

**Budget & Finance Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, July 21** at **1 p.m.**

**Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, July 14 & Wednesday, August 12** at **10 a.m.**

**Communications Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, September 16** at **8:30 a.m.**

**Modifications Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, July 7 & August 11** at **12:30 p.m.**. Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, July 2 and August 6 at 12 noon.**

---

### June Weather in Bellasera

(June 1 - June 30)

Highest Temperature: **108**

Lowest temperature: **55**

Rainfall: **0.00**

Rainfall this year: **5.67 inches**

Bellasera weather 24/7/365: **[weather.azbellasera.org](http://weather.azbellasera.org)**

### Bellasera Weather at a Touch

A free app for your iPhone, iPad only. Provides instant Bellasera weather information at a touch. This app is only available in the Apple App Store. In the App Store, search for "PWS Monitor" (no quotation marks). Install the free app.

Touch the gear icon at the lower left of your display.

The Settings screen will appear. Touch "Enter A Known Station ID"

Enter "KAZSCOTT79"

Touch OK.

That's it. More information, if required, is available by e-mail, [editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)

---

### Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have classified ads, meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**, or turn them in to the Association office no later than the **20th** of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian, 480-382-9310.**

Neither the Bellasera Community Association nor its Board of Directors provides any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, of any information contained in this newsletter in any form or manner whatsoever.

---

### City of Scottsdale Brush & Bulk Collection

The City of Scottsdale will pick up brush and bulk items in the Bellasera community during the week of **Monday, July 27**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, August 24**. Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. **Remember, here in Bellasera, items cannot be put out prior to Friday of the previous week.** It will be removed during the week. For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600.**

# Defensible Space Guidelines

With the recent fires in our local area, we feel it is prudent to inform our Bellasera community about the creation of a Defensible Space adjacent to your property.

In cooperation with the City of Scottsdale's Fire Marshall, it has been determined, as is outlined in the chart below, a 20-foot defensible space is permitted.

Per our community landscape contract, the HOA has the responsibility for clearing the 5-foot area beyond the view fence twice a year.

Homeowners can add an additional 15 feet to their Defensible Space by clearing dead or dying vegetation from this area.

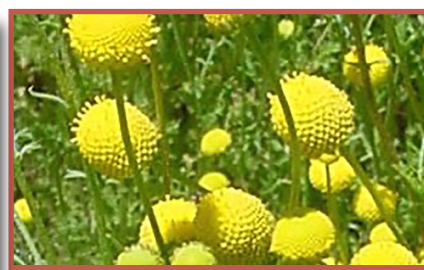
Defensible Space	
Walls and Fences	
Remove Vegetation	5 Feet
Remove Dead Vegetation	15 Feet
<b>Total Defensible Dimensions</b>	<b>20 Feet</b>

We have identified items that can be addressed to create your additional Defensible Space. With restrictions, homeowners can **only** remove fuel sources such as **Dead and Dying Plants and Invasive Plants**, as noted below. Dead grass may be cut to ground level.

Invasive Plants include Desert Broom and Globe Chamomile. The removal of invasive Plants, which have been introduced into our open space, provide a substantial decrease in available fuel, and can serve to decrease the risk and intensity of wildland fire incidents.



Desert Broom



Globe Chamomile

Should you have any questions about which invasive plants are acceptable to remove, homeowners are encouraged to contact the Buildings & Grounds committee ([bandg@azbellasera.org](mailto:bandg@azbellasera.org)).

**Please Note That Homeowners Are Not Allowed to Remove Any Live, Native Plants and No Vegetation Beyond Your 20-Foot Defensible Space**

**Removal of Any Native Plants Within This 20-Foot Space or Any Vegetation Beyond The 20-Foot Space May Result in A Citation and Fine from The City of Scottsdale And Will Require A Homeowner to Replace/Replant**

## B e l l a s e r a   C l a s s i f i e d s

I love living in Bellasera! Did you know that real estate inventory levels in our community are extremely low? I have buyers who want homes in Bellasera. This year I have represented 3 buyers in Bellasera bringing contracts to sellers in 1 day. Have you been thinking about making a move? Now is a great time to sell. Contact me today for a market analysis – **Audrey Fischer**, Realtor – Coldwell Banker Realty, **480- 740-4223** or [audrey.fischer@azmoves.com](mailto:audrey.fischer@azmoves.com).

---

All about Cleaning \*\*\* Professional Window Cleaning. Inside-Outside-Tracks. Power Wash (After Monsoon season Must). Request an over the phone estimate or on-site free estimate. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237**, [www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto:Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com).

---

Cabin available for rent in Munds Park. 3 bedrooms, 2 sleeper sofas/2 baths; gas fireplace; fabulous deck; full kitchen; washer/dryer. \$300 weekend/\$600 for 3 night Holiday weekend. Cleaning fee negotiable. Contact Bellasera resident **Marti Bening**, at [mbening@cox.net](mailto:mbening@cox.net) for details.

---

Bellasera Residents: The Kiwanis Club of Carefree can pick up your unwanted furniture, clothing and household goods. All items will be sold in our Marketplace resale store in Cave Creek. Proceeds go to support kids in our local school district. Contributions may be tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. Call **480-488-8400** for information and to schedule an appointment. Thanks for your support.

---

All About Cleaning \*\*\*Regularly scheduled Home cleaning \*\*\*One Time Cleaning \*\*\*Move In/Out cleaning \*\*\*After Remodeling Cleaning. We have excellent references from long-time Bellasera Resident customers and surrounding areas. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237** (owner-operator, Bellasera resident for over 10 years). Licensed-Bonded-Insured. [www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto:Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com).

---

Introducing Desert Dwellers Home Watching Services, LLC, available exclusively to Bellasera residents. Desert Dwellers is owned and operated by year-round Bellasera residents, **Jennifer Brummet** and **Ross Strozeqski**. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighbors have access to reliable and trustworthy home monitoring services while they are away from their desert dwelling. We are licensed, bonded and insured and can provide a variety of weekly, by-monthly, and monthly home monitoring visits. Services are based on our clients' preferences and include inspections of both the interior and exterior perimeter of the property. All visits include a comprehensive home watching report. For a complete list of services and to schedule a complimentary assessment, please contact us, 480-634-1452, [ddhome\\_watch@gmail.com](mailto:ddhome_watch@gmail.com).

---

I have several weeks of timeshare stays banked. Due to Covid19, vacations are limited this year. Driving to San Diego and staying for a week at Marriott Pulse downtown in August may provide a welcome respite. Activities like the Zoo, Balboa Park, Coronado Island, the harbor and Gaslight corridor are nearby. Availability changes frequently. Call me if interested in the 7 day stay. Cost \$1000. Other destinations available in September and October. **Marti Bening**, [mbening@cox.net](mailto:mbening@cox.net), **602-616-6085**.

---

*Classified Ads are only accepted from Bellasera homeowners. Real estate for sale, non-resident business or commercial ads are not accepted. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. **Your ad will run for 3 months**, and may be extended upon request. E-mail your ad to: [editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)*





# REAR VIEW - A HISTORY OF BELLASERA

## July 2010

Our Memorial Day BBQ was exceptionally well attended with 60 or so residents enjoying themselves. The water balloon toss resulted in a few contestants being 'busted' with a refreshing surge of water. We honored our fellow residents in attendance who have served in the armed forces. Next year we will include a 'care package' collection to send to our active duty troops. Thank you to Vicki Snyder for chairing this successful event. If you find your photo on the clubhouse bulletin board, please take it home with you. Next committee meeting is Tuesday, July 13, 6 p.m., at the clubhouse. Welcome new committee members - Denise Atard, Marcia Lefkowitz, Myrna Levin, Carolyn Passero and Cindy Schubert. These ladies along with Cheryl Renaud, Jo An Seres, Marci Sheer and Vicki Snyder enthusiastically volunteer their time and talents to hosting our memorable events. Our unsung heroes are our husbands who happily lend a hand with set up, clean up and wherever else they can help. Thank you Don, Greg, Harold, Larry, Jerry, Paul R, and Paul S.

## JUL 2015

Securitas, USA, the company that provides Scottsdale Road gate personnel for our community, has named Ray Palado as Bellasera's Officer-in-Charge. Ray has been here for over two years, working the daytime weekend shift. He'll now assume the daytime shift during the week. Added to the Securitas, USA staff is Alex Brown, taking over the weekend daytime shift. As many residents will remember, in late 2013 we were in the middle of the litigation with the owner of the adjacent 12-acre parcel. At the same time the Board was negotiating with Verizon Wireless for a long-term lease for the installation of two faux saguaro cactus cell phone towers on a portion of our Common Area off the 78th Street cul-de-sac. We held a Community Meeting at the clubhouse on January 16, 2014 at which a Verizon representative and members of the Board answered and addressed questions and concerns of our attending Homeowners.

We suspended our conversations with Verizon by agreement with the 12-acre parcel owner until the litigation was decided/settled - now accomplished! As the owner of the 12-acre tract has now put his property on the market for sale, he has told Verizon that he will no longer pursue a cell tower lease for his property. That has brought Verizon back to us.

## August 2010

Our Italian conversation group is still having fun on the first Monday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Janet, 480-488-0259 for more information.

Bellasera resident Sandy Fox has just had her second book on surviving grief published, "Creating a New Normal...After the Death of a Child." This book will help the newly bereaved as

well as the seasoned griever find their way through the darkness and into the light again to a life full of happiness and new meaning. In addition to helping bereaved parents, the book is also for family members, friends, therapists and anyone who wants to know how to act and react to those who have lost a child.

Thanks to all who supported the ICAN Backpack drive. Underserved students will very much appreciate helping them have the necessary school supplies. Summer recess for the committee, lunches and meetings. Next social event is Saturday, October 16 - Oktoberfest. We are planning an extra special activity and hope you can attend.

### **AUGUST 2015**

Our July Potluck Dinner had a great turn-out of 25 “cowpokes”, who loved the western decor presented by our hosts, Karen and Jerry Meiliken, as well as the great food and conversations. The August 14 Potluck Dinner will be hosted by Sandra Berger and Alan Rubin. Theme is: A Luau. Come join us!

A situation recently came to our attention regarding a Bellasera home listed for rent by the day or week on the online rental site Airbnb. Airbnb is a website for people to rent their homes (or rooms) online to others. If the Board becomes aware of similar situations in the future, we have the ability to assess significant fines against an offender and can apply such fines retroactively to the first day of the prohibited rental to assure compliance

.  
You could save water and money with a free irrigation audit. City of Scottsdale offers free irrigation audits to its single-family residential customers. An irrigation audit could reveal system leaks and inefficiencies that, when fixed, can help you save water. Contact Scottsdale’s Water Conservation Office, 480-312-5650 to request an irrigation audit. Limit one per property.





# July & August in the Garden

by Joe McDade

## **A Summer Like None Other.....Except For Your Garden!**

It appears that we are facing a summer full of unknowns as we struggle through the next stage of the Covid-19 pandemic. After enduring sheltering in place for the last few months, we emerge to a “new normal” world of wearing masks and practicing social distancing, a phrase few people had ever heard of until a few months ago. And, for sports fans, the ultimate uncertainty....will we have football in the fall? Well, if you’re looking for certainty these next few months, the one place you’ll find it is in your garden. As it does every year, coincidental with our “warm-up”, it will begin to enter into a slowdown period with gardening coming to a standstill, starting in July and continuing into August. It’s just not a good time to do any serious planting.

## **It’s Hot ...The Monsoon Is Not Far Off...In The Meantime....Help Your Garden Cope!**

June brought us our expected hot weather with record temperatures at times. The heat will certainly continue into July and August but the arrival of the *monsoon* (we hope) will bring welcome relief for you and your garden. During July, humidity should start arriving from the Gulf of California which will bring us thunderstorms and blowing dust. In the meantime, these are some steps you can take to help.

### **Watering**

Last month I discussed **How Much** and **How Often** in some detail. I’d like to add to that with some useful (hopefully) tips:

**Water in the Morning-** Plants can uptake (absorb) water more easily in the early morning as opposed to being watered during the day. During the heat of the day, plants have to devote much of their resources to handling the stress of the heat and cannot uptake water efficiently. Therefore, it's best to water early in the morning so that they are replenished with water and ready to face the excessive evaporation that will occur with temperatures over 115 degrees.

**Provide Extra Water-** Irrigate shrubs and groundcovers in the early morning hours for an extra 1/2 hour when temperatures are forecast over 115 degrees.

### **Landscape Plants**

- Apply mulch to the ground around the base of heat sensitive plants to keep the roots cooler and prevent evaporation. Keep the mulch several inches away from the trunk.
- Cut off spent blooms to stimulate rebloom.
- Late August or early September fertilization will benefit most plants struggling to have a flush of growth before slowing down for the winter. The growth put on before dormancy will store more energy during the winter that will be available to the plant when it pushes growth in the Spring.



**Annual Flowers-** If you have planted some annual flowers, they are more than likely in pots where soil temperatures heat up to triple digits, and roots will “cook” without adequate moisture. Containers in full sun often require daily watering. Water should soak through the soil and drain out the bottom of the pot with each application to prevent salt buildup, which can kill plants over time. The frequent watering needed in summer, unfortunately, also leaches nutrients out of the soil. Therefore, a slow-release or organic fertilizer is recommended as they are less likely to burn plant roots in the summer heat compared to a faster-acting chemical fertilizer.

**Trees-** Established native or desert-adapted trees should be watered at least once a month if no rainfall. If the temperature is over 108 degrees, water your native or desert-adapted trees at least twice during the month. Always allow soil to dry out between each irrigation cycle. Water at least 3 feet deep for your trees. In most years, we get enough winter and spring rainfall to obviate the need for watering trees. This year's rainfall has been ok but you should keep an eye on your trees for stress.

**Citrus-** If trees are water-stressed in summer, their rinds will crack and split later in the growing season. Rinds become tough without adequate moisture and cannot expand as the fruit swells. To avoid this, water mature citrus trees every 10 to 14 days in summer. Water young trees (in the ground 2 or less years) every 5 to 10 days. Apply water at the drip line (outer canopy edge), and move emitters or hoses outward as the canopy spreads. Water should soak 3 feet deep with each application for mature trees. A soaker hose is ideal for this.

**Succulents-** They are normally drought resistant. However, we're at that point in the summer where they too will succumb, especially to the high nighttime temperatures. When the night temperatures stay at 90° or above and the humidity is high, most succulent plants can't breathe. After several nights in a row, chances are many of them will rot. Other than careful watering, there is nothing that can be done. \*\*Remember, many plant families make up the succulent species, the best known being cactus. Virtually all cacti (or cactuses) are succulents, but many succulents are not cactus\*\*.

### **Native Tree Maintenance**

**Pruning-** Summer is the recommended time to prune native desert trees because they are actively growing and can recover quickly. Things to consider before undertaking this task:

- Good pruning is both an art and a science.
- The result should be a safe, healthy and beautiful tree that complements its natural growth habit.
- If you prune your trees yourself, familiarize yourself with proper pruning principals and techniques. There is a lot of literature available, including the internet.
- If you hire someone to prune your trees, be sure **they** understand proper pruning principals and techniques.
- Remove no more than one-quarter of a tree's branches in a year. Cutting off too much foliage “starves” the plant by reducing its ability to synthesize and can leave it susceptible to disease.
- It's advisable to hold off any pruning for at least one year after planting. Two years is even better. If you allow as many branches as possible to survive, the tree will develop strength and trunk girth.

\*\*\* Keep in mind that the longer you wait to prune your mesquites, the higher the risk of wind damage during the monsoon.



## Miscellaneous

**Fertilization** - Do not fertilize until the weather cools.

**Check your drip watering system.** Verify the ground humidity around all plants. Check your drippers periodically to see if any popped out now that heat is making the hoses softer.

**Protect Potted Plants** - Soil temperatures may exceed 150 degrees in direct sunlight, basically “cooking” roots. Move containers into morning sun/afternoon shade locations or cover with shade cloth.

**Roses**- Cut back on fertilizing established roses to encourage plants to slow down for the hot summer. Water deeply as temperatures climb and hose off plants in the early morning to increase humidity and control spider mites. Toward the end of August and into September add an iron supplement if roses show yellowing from iron deficiency

## Desert Observations

**Desert Plants Fruits are Ripening, Which Means.... It's Bean Pod Time!** The fruits of many desert plants are continuing to ripen such as Prickly-pears and other cacti. In addition, Ironwood, Palo Verde and Mesquite trees are also loaded with fruit in the form of bean pods. These three native trees are certainly dominant in Bellasera as a good number of them were uprooted and saved during home construction in order to be replanted in your front yard. Of course these “fruits” result in a cleanup challenge for us.

**Note:** There are four species of green-barked Palo Verde trees: the Blue Palo Verde, the Foothills Palo Verde, the Mexican Palo Verde and the Palo Brea. All four produce a different bean pod.

**Black widow spiders**-These beneficial garden creatures consume annoying pests, such as cockroaches and crickets. Black widow spiders (*Latrodectus Hesperus*) are active on warm summer nights.

**Scorpions**- are active during hot summer nights and are effective predators of other insects. Although the sting of a scorpion is painful, it is generally not life threatening.

**Hummingbirds**- There is a dramatic increase in hummingbird activity this month, as many species begin “tanking up” fat reserves for migration, and other species arrive here on their way south.

## Planting

**July**- I would not encourage planting in July. However, Native Americans traditionally sowed summer crops right before the start of the monsoons. The desert's brief summer season of extra rainfall and humidity promoted seed germination and encouraged plants to grow quickly.

**August**- Normally, the start of our late summer/early fall vegetable planting season which continues into November. Unless we have a dramatic monsoon, I would hold off until September which will still give you plenty of time. That will be covered in September.

**Happy 4th of July.....See You In September!**

**(If you have a gardening question, please contact the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service at 602-470-8086)**



### **Our Heroes**

Heroes today come from different groups  
Police, fire and our amazing troops  
We respect what they do for us everyday  
Knowing their commitment will never stray

But when I was young we couldn't wait  
For Saturday to roll around  
So we could attend the matinee  
And see our heroes abound

Our heroes were people like Roy and Gene  
That rode across the silver screen  
Their movies were something the family could watch  
With language that was always clean

You could always tell who the heroes were  
They always wore a white hat  
Then one came along to counter that  
He always dressed in black

His amazing horse was quite a show stopper  
I remember his name was Topper  
He was sleek and white, and fast as the wind  
And his energy never dimmed

Atop this steed was a man we loved  
One that could make us happy  
William Boyd was the cowboys name  
But we just knew him as "Hoppy"

We enjoyed those days, light and carefree  
I wish we could bring them back  
But I'll always remember that special man  
The one that dressed in black

Paul H. Rippens  
2020

Roy Rogers (Leonard Slye) 11/5/1911 to 7/6/1998  
Gene Autry 9/29/1907 to 10/2/1998  
William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) 6/5/1895 to 9/12/1972

## Trim Trees Before the Monsoons Arrive

Soon we will see monsoon storms. These storms can arrive quickly and can hit hard. One of the things that happen year after year is trees that have not been properly trimmed end up going down in the storms. If trees are close to a home, they can end up crashing on to the roof and home causing damage. Or, if by a pool, they can end up going down and into the pool. But even if there is no damage to a home, an untrimmed tree may go down and a beloved tree can be lost.

In order to alleviate losing trees, and/or branches and limbs to storm damage, it's recommended homeowners have their trees trimmed so they are not top heavy and therefore less prone to going down in a monsoon. Obviously, even a good and proper trimming is not a guarantee you will not lose any trees, but having them trimmed will greatly decrease the chance of loss.

Trimming trees properly is important. It is important not to simply cut all the lower branches and leave the top to become very top heavy. Trees that have been trimmed in this manner are at the most risk in the monsoons.



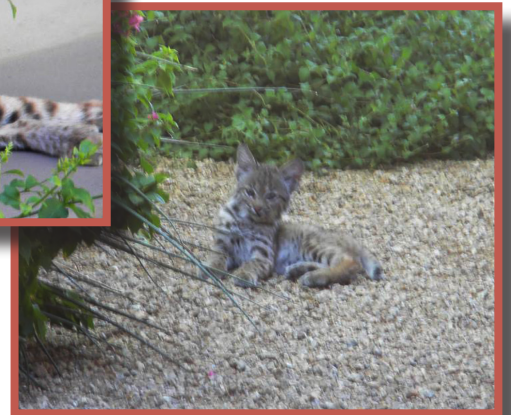
## THE WARMER SIDE OF THE ELUSIVE BOBCAT

Bellasera is nestled in the northern part of the Sonoran Desert and is home to a broad array of wondrous wildlife. We live amongst Fearless Flyers ranging from Anna's Hummingbird to the Great Horned Owl and Cold-Blooded Creatures notably represented by the Diamondback Rattlesnake although the Scorpion is a close second. Our Warm-Blooded Creatures range in size from the Kangaroo Rat to the Javelina. While the Coyote is the one you're most likely to encounter, the elusive, somewhat mysterious Bobcat is seldom seen except from April to early June when the mother is tending to her kittens. You can live in Bellasera for years and never come across one.



The nocturnal Bobcat is a very wary, secretive but beautiful creature hunting and prowling at night. Tufts of fur be-

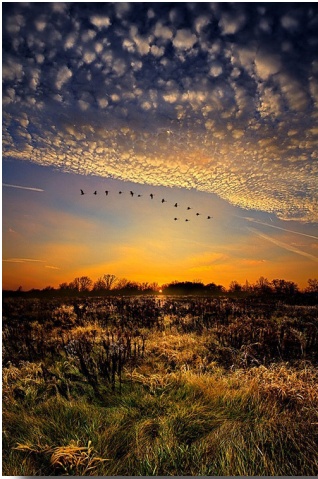
tween their toes and retracted claws allow them to move soundlessly and their mottled coats are an abstract blend of browns, blacks, and whites—perfect camouflage. They are highly territorial and will mark their range with scent and make distinctive claw markings on trees to let others know of their presence. The males have a large range, which will often overlap several smaller female territories, though cats will not interact with each other until the breeding season in the winter.



The population here in Bellasera is probably limited to a single female and male as the young are dispersed during the winter, at about 8 months of age and the female will maintain control of her territory. We currently have a bobcat raising her three kittens, teaching them how to hunt along with other skills necessary for their future survival. Residents **Fred** and **Nancy Kuechelmann** were fortunate enough to have a front row seat as school was in session in front of their house for a number of days. This created an opportunity to get these great pictures.

*Photos by Fred and Nancy Kuechelmann*





## **Bellaser Community Association**

**7350 E Ponte Bella Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266-2701**

Office: **480-488-0400**

Security/Front Gate: **480-488-3663**

**M-F: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.: Sat: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Sun: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**

Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**

Community Directory: **directory.azbellasera.org**

Resident Administrative Assistant: **Pamela Nunnelly**

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,  
Tuesday & Thursday - 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Questions regarding your account?

Contact AAM, LLC: **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-354-0257**

AAM, LLC (after hours, emergency): **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-553-8290**

### ***Bellaser Community Volunteers***

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless*

*Interested in volunteering? Go to **azbellasera.org**, "BCA Members" page*

#### **Board of Directors**

**board@azbellasera.org**

**President - Richard Hoffman**

**Vice President - Dennis Carson**

**Secretary - Dennis Soeffner**

**Treasurer - Jim Ragborg**

**Director - Joe Carlon**

#### **Committees**

**Budget & Finance - (bandf@azbellasera.org) Audrey Fischer, Mary Moore-Chair, Jim Ragborg, Chuck Roach, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder**

**Buildings & Grounds - (bandg@azbellasera.org) John Mattox, John Nielsen, Tom Saari-Chair, Tom Shannon, Dennis Soeffner, Bruce Van Cleave, Jill Wyllie**

**Communications - (comm@azbellasera.org) Keith Christian-Chair, Richard Hoffman, Joe McDade, Carol Padwe, Paul Rippens**

**Modifications - (mod@azbellasera.org) Joe Carlon - Chair, Stanley Green, David Hathaway, Craig Johnson**

**Security Advisory - (sec@azbellasera.org) Joe Carlon**

**Wildfire Safety Advisor - Paul Rippens**