



MCDOWELL
SONORAN
CONSERVANCY

April 2020 Conservancy Newsletter

As noted in our last newsletter, and in light of COVID-19 and guidance from local, state and federal public health agencies, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy continues to suspend public activities that require the gathering of groups of people or close personal contact until guidance allows for resumption of those activities. For as long as necessary, the Conservancy, its staff, and stewards will continue with much of their work while maintaining a safe working environment.

Our [Website](#) has had a complete redesign. We are still working to add valuable content and features and to identify any bugs. We invite you to explore the site and discover the amazing repository for all things McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. If you find a problem on the site, please email [Wendy Anderton](#), Communications and Marketing Manager.



SCIENCE



restoration areas and provide native plant seed menus to help land managers plan ecological restoration.

The Parsons Field Institute is working with regional partners to **map disturbed lands** and build regional capacity to restore our beautiful Sonoran Desert. Already, citizen scientists have mapped degraded lands in the Preserve, and we are now training our regional partners use Google Earth imagery to identify potentially disturbed land across over 30,000 acres within McDowell Mountain Regional Park and White Tank Mountain Regional Park. From here, we will create an ArcGIS map highlighting priority

You may have noticed an abundance of **thistles** in McDowell Sonoran Preserve this year. These tall purple-flowered beauties are native and should not be removed! The New Mexico thistle (*Cirsium neomexicanum*) is native to the desert Southwest and is a vital part of the ecosystem. Hundreds of species rely on this plant, including butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, beetles, and more. Removal of these plants negatively affects wildlife and the overall desert.

Help protect our precious desert! Don't remove thistles or other native plants. Thank you!



EDUCATION



CONSERVANCY
KIDS

Introducing! Conservancy Kids Newsletter!

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is excited to introduce the **Conservancy Kids** newsletter. [Sign up](#) to receive the newsletters, packed with fun, hands-on lessons and explorations of the Sonoran Desert.

These great videos follow our education program outline and are designed to encourage discovery of the Sonoran Desert and our place in it. Ranger's Luke and Nicole guide curious minds through exercises that teach the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's curriculum for **STEAM education**.

Public education opportunities are coming soon, so stay tuned and sign up for the Conservancy Kids newsletter. Be sure you're sharing with the young folks in your life!



STEWARDSHIP



The **Annual Steward Recognition** event was not able to be held, so we've been honoring all the awardees in our social media feeds. There are still more coming this week, so be sure to follow along and help the stewards congratulate and honor their own ranks.

Without stewardship and the dedication of the people behind the title, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy would not and could not be successful. New stewards are always welcome. Check out the opportunities on our [new website!](#)



#GivingTuesday – a Global Generosity Movement - unleashes the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is participating in this global day of unity that takes place on May 5, 2020, (instead of the usual November date) as a response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. One of the best ways YOU can be involved is in your own community. We hope you will consider supporting us on #GivingTuesday (May 5, 2020).

For more information on volunteering
visit mcdowellsonoran.org/volunteer

Support us by donating today!
visit mcdowellsonoran.org/support

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