

ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

# NEWS

DESERT MUSEUM NEWS > WINTER 2020  
A newsletter for friends of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

## WHO AM I?

By Luna Powell



.....  
A woman walks up to me, her excitement palpable. “Can I take a picture?” With a knowing smile I answer, “of course, just no flash.” I see her camera go off, true to her word, with no flash of light.  
.....

Of course, it’s not me she’s taking a picture of. It’s the tiny bundle of feathers and eyes who’s perched on my hand. We make eye contact and I begin. “This is Xena. She is a western screech-owl native to our Sonoran Desert. Yes, she actually is full grown, weighing only about 3 ounces! That makes her one of the smallest owls in our desert...”

I’ve been asked a few times throughout my life; “What makes you, you?” While I could be literal and talk physical features or say other personality qualities, my brain always spirals back to what I love to do. I volunteer at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and I don’t spend my time there alone. Xena, Albert, Hootie, Pico, Tiger, and Bella are there with me. Those three owls and three falcons have

been a huge part of who I am. But it's not just their physical selves. It's what they give me. With them I am able to teach someone a tidbit of information that they might go home or go to class with excitement and share with their peers. I am telling a stranger something that fills them with joy.

With Xena on my hand I am unstoppable. I command the room and I'm doing it through knowledge and love, not power. The mission of the Desert Museum includes fostering love, appreciation and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. With any of these six birds I am doing that. I'm giving a stranger whom I've never seen---and will probably never be seen again---an experience they will remember and a spark of love for an unknown creature they won't forget.

I truly believe I have found my greatest passion in education. Not classroom education but public education. With the Desert Museum that education is the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. According to the *New*

*York Times* article, "Why Following Your Passions is Good for You," about a study published in 'The Annals of Behavioral Medicine' says "pursuing your passion both lowers stress and contributes to greater happiness overall." I love what I do and I am truly happy when I am there. I put my work hat on. Everything falls away and it's just me and the bird and the person in front of me. As of today I have contributed 875 hours of volunteer service to the Desert Museum and don't plan to stop anytime soon. It is one of my greatest accomplishments in my life and I did it while loving every hour.

I don't know for sure if the person who asked me about myself was really looking for that answer, but if they truly wanted to know, that is the best answer I can give. I'm not a star athlete or an award-winning singer. I'm not famous or popular. But I don't wish for any of that. I've found who I am and I'm proud of it. I come alive when I teach; and I believe the place you come alive is your home. ■



## WHAT IS A JUNIOR DOCENT?

Junior Docents are teen volunteers (middle school and high school students ages 13-18) who engage with Museum guests, sharing natural history and conservation stories. Junior Docents are trained to help guests at the Museum and at community events better understand, appreciate, and live in harmony with the Sonoran Desert Region. Junior Docents meet approximately twice a month, with occasional overnight field trips. This is a year round, two year program.



**Luna Powell is currently a junior at Tucson High School and an avid lover of all things nature.** She loves dance and theater, participating in both through school. Her greatest passion lies in teaching, which she does through the Desert Museum. Luna has volunteered as a Junior Docent for four years and an Earth Ambassador for one. This is her second year of being a Junior Docent Captain. Luna spends her weeks with family and friends, and of course her Saturdays at the Museum!

*"I have contributed 875 hours of volunteer service to the Desert Museum and don't plan to stop any time soon. It is one of my greatest accomplishments in my life and I did it while loving every hour"*

# DON'T MISS DESERT MUSEUM EVENTS & COOL OPPORTUNITIES!



## RAPTOR FREE FLIGHT

**The most extraordinary birds of prey  
exhibition in the United States!**

Watch as these amazing aerialists soar and swoop in their native desert habitat and learn about their attributes, habitats and behaviors.

**DAILY**

October 19, 2019 thru  
February 29, 2020  
10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

**DAILY**

March 1, 2020 thru  
April 12, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

## MINERAL MADNESS SALE & FAMILY FUN

Mineral & Fossil Sale with a Rockin' Kids Treasure Hunt



SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
JANUARY 18 - 19, 10AM - 4PM

bring the  
**Sonoran**  
Desert  
into your art!

DESERT MUSEUM'S  
ART INSTITUTE

*Workshops & Classes*  
for adults

CONSERVATION  
through ART EDUCATION



Coffee & Tea Festival  
January 25, 2020



Have you ever wanted to be a proud parent of one our animals?  
**Now you can!** You can be a "Proud Parent" to our prairie dogs, javelinas, Gila monsters, Mexican gray wolves, otters, bats, or hummingbirds. **Your symbolic adoption will help us provide the highest quality care to these captivating creatures.**



*visit [desertmuseum.org](http://desertmuseum.org)  
for more information*



# The Desert Museum has some exciting new opportunities for support.

## *Check these out!*



### **Tribute Gifts**

There are a number of ways for you to make a tribute gift – a gift in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion – while providing financial support to the Desert Museum and those we serve.

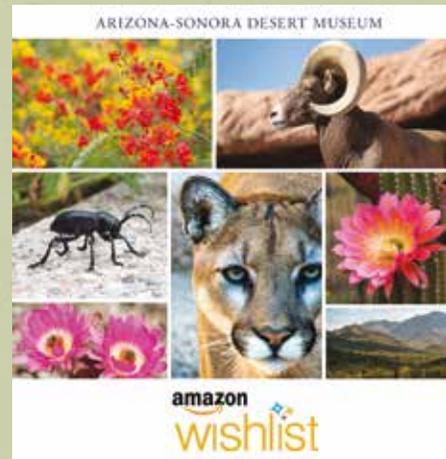
The Museum accepts donations of all amounts to recognize your loved ones, and we notify the appropriate individuals of your thoughtfulness.

Also, beginning at the \$5,000 level, you can choose a Desert Museum custom-made concrete bench, or starting at the \$2,500 level, select a tribute tree on the grounds of the Museum! We then create a customized bronze plaque, and you are able to enjoy a more permanent tribute that you and your family can visit for years. Contact [deshbaugh@desertmuseum](mailto:deshbaugh@desertmuseum) or (520) 883-3039 to learn more.



### **CARS Vehicle Donation Program**

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat to the Desert Museum through the CARS program! CARS will reach out to you directly to arrange the pick-up of your vehicle donation, at no cost to you. You may qualify for a tax deduction, while supporting a cause that is near and dear to your heart. Visit [desertmuseum.org/support](http://desertmuseum.org/support) for more information.



### **Desert Museum Amazon Wish List**

Sometimes people like to donate cash, checks, or assets, and other times people like to SHOP for us!

Purchasing items from our Amazon.com Wish List is one great way to make a difference for the Museum. Visit the online list at [desertmuseum.org/support/wishlist/](http://desertmuseum.org/support/wishlist/) and you can select a specific item that the Desert Museum is in need of.

*As purchases are processed through Amazon.com, please leave your name and contact information in the notes, so we can THANK YOU for your most generous support.*



DESERTMUSEUM  
**CLASSES**  
*and*  
**TRIPS** adult



Registration Information: call (520) 883-3025 or log onto [desertmuseum.org/adultclasses](http://desertmuseum.org/adultclasses). Prices are 10% more for non-members.

**CLASSES**

**Sandhill Cranes, Raptors & Waterfowl**

**January 31, 2020**

Thousands of sandhill cranes migrate from as far away as Alaska to spend the winter in the agricultural fields near Willcox, one of our region's birding hot spots. **\$90**

**Mammoths of the San Pedro Valley**

**February 15, 2020**

Visit a mammoth kill site and learn about the Clovis Culture, see fossils of the megafauna that roamed Arizona 10,000 years ago, and practice throwing an atlatl. Picnic at the St. David Monastery then end the day collecting gypsum crystals. **\$80**

**Heirloom Fruit Tree Workshop**

**February 19, 2020**

Jesús García, founder of the Kino Heritage Fruit Trees Project will teach techniques for propagation, pruning, grafting, and care of fruit trees. Participants will take home cuttings, as well as have a tour of the Mission Garden. **\$60**

**Spring Plants & Wildflower Walks**

**March 21, 2020**

Join us for a morning of colorful desert flora. We will hike up a nearby wash looking at what grows on the sandy bottom as well as on the rocky steps in the company of Museum botanists. **\$40**

**Cholla Bud Harvest**

**April 11, 2020**

Participate in the centuries-old Sonoran Desert springtime ritual of harvesting and preparing cholla buds. Learn how to preserve them and about their nutritional value. Includes a native foods lunch. **\$60**



**Pine Needle Baskets**

**April 18, 2020**

Create unique baskets using coils of pine needles attached to a ceramic or wooden base. Several different stiches and decorative finishing touches will be taught. **\$70**



**Sonoran Desert Spa Day**

**May 16, 2020**

As a Mother's Day treat, spend the morning luxuriating with a facial mask made from desert aromatics in our secluded guesthouse. We will be led on a botanical walk, learn to make nourishing serums, and relax! **\$120**

**TRIPS**

**Baja California/North to South**

**April 4 -15, 2020**

**Whaling, Ecology, Geology, Birding, and Ethnobotany!**

Join Jesús García and geologist/raconteur, Bob Scarborough, for a motor coach tour down the entire length of the Baja Peninsula. An amazing experience awaits you in San Ignacio; a two-day gray whale "glamping" trip! On the gulf-side dip into the pristine waters to snorkel with marine life in Loreto Bay. Experience the charming artists' haven of Todo Santos and witness the famous Los Arcos geologic formation at the tip of Baja, Land's End. **\$4,490**

**Land of the Hopi & Navajo**

**April 22 - 28, 2020**

Explore the stark sandstone geology and the ancient cultures of Arizona's Colorado Plateau. Visit the Hopi Mesas and the homes of Kachina artisans, and walk a Hopi cornfield. Visit the Hubbell Trading Post and Petrified Forest. Enjoy a sunrise breakfast in Monument Valley, two nights in Canyon de Chelly, and one in Winslow's grand railroad hotel La Posada. **\$1,770**



**California Missions & Wines**

**September 14 - 20, 2020**

The legacy of the Franciscan Friars lies in the place names, vineyards and architecture of the Golden State. Take in California's coastline and oak-studded inland hill country as we spend the week visiting six of the missions established along Alta California's Camino Real. Our route takes in Santa Barbara, Santa Inés, La Purisima, San Luis Obispo, San Miguel and San Antonio. Two nights are slept in the friary of Mission San Antonio, isolated by a surrounding military preserve, and appears much as it did during the missionary period. Then there is wine, a pleasant necessity introduced to the region by the Catholic priests. We sample local wines as well as olive oils. The last two days follow the coastline south of Big Sur past Morro Bay. Optional train travel Tucson/Santa Barbara will be offered. **\$1,890**



**ART EXHIBIT:**  
**Art Exhibit and Award Ceremony**  
**International Exhibit**  
**of Nature in Art**  
**Awards Ceremony:**  
**January 25, 2020**

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** (followed by  
*an opening in the Gallery until 5pm.*)

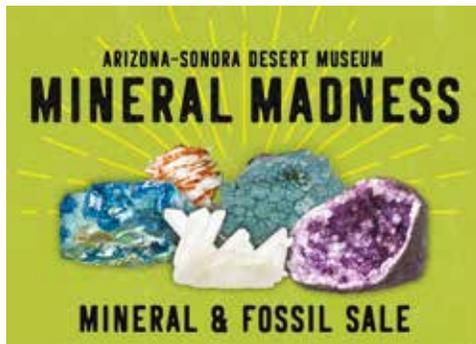
**Ironwood Gallery**

Artists for Conservation's annual juried exhibit is the world's top conservation-themed art show and highlights the artwork of select Signature members of the group. The goal of the exhibit is to support conservation through art sales and education; a portion of the sales of will support the conservation organization of the artists' choice. To showcase the extraordinary pool of artistic talent within AFC; and to share the nature-inspired art genre with new audiences across the world. This juried show features sculptures as well as paintings by many well-known artists, including several of our own ASDM Art Institute instructors and students.

With the 2019 Simon Combes award, AFC will recognize the vision and artistic excellence of Priscilla Baldwin, the founder of the ASDM Art Institute. "Priscilla joins a who's who roster of international recipients chosen for their artistic excellence and their extraordinary lifetime support of conservation".

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Ironwood Gallery (open daily); Baldwin Gallery (Monday through Friday). Learn more at [www.DesertMuseumArts.com](http://www.DesertMuseumArts.com). Please call (520) 883-3024 to check hours due to occasional special events.



**MINERAL MADNESS**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**January 18 & 19**  
**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Join the Desert Museum for our annual mineral show, Mineral Madness! The sale features thousands of mineral specimens for the novice to the serious collector. Shop for your own mineral and fossil treasures at rock-bottom prices and enjoy fun hands-on activities for families all around Museum grounds! For more information, please visit [www.desertmuseum.org/mineralmadness](http://www.desertmuseum.org/mineralmadness).



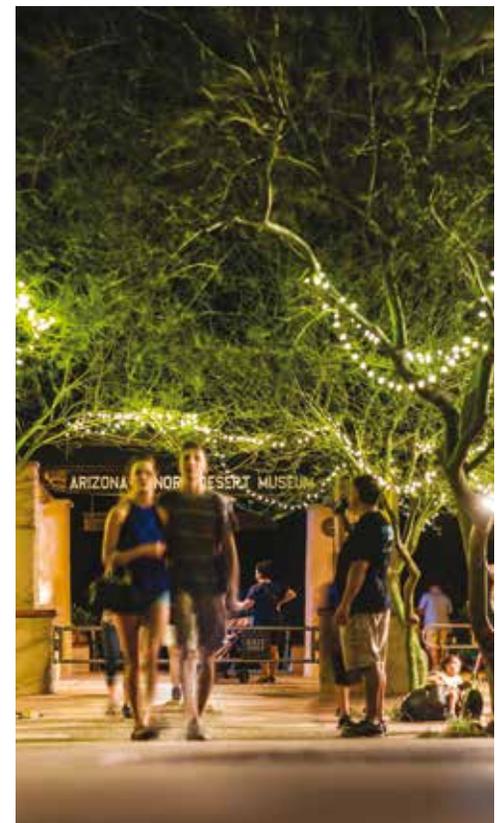
**Morning at the Museum**  
**Saturday, January 25**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Join the Desert Museum for our second annual coffee and tea festival, Morning at the Museum. Sip delicious tastings from local coffee roasters and tea houses, sample sweet snacks, jam to live music, pot a plant, and visit with engaging animals. You can also practice your downward dog in the desert, enjoy exclusive coffee presentations, and sip on the best morning cocktails. To purchase tickets, please visit [www.desertmuseum.org/morningmuseum](http://www.desertmuseum.org/morningmuseum).



**WineDown With Wildlife**  
**Saturday, March 21**  
**6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Join the Desert Museum for our second annual wine festival, WineDown with Wildlife, to help support the amazing wildlife in our care and celebrate World Wildlife Day. Sip on the best local and regional wines in the Southwest, sample sweet and savory snacks, stargaze, enjoy live music, and visit with our engaging animals. To purchase tickets, please visit [www.desertmuseum.org/winedown](http://www.desertmuseum.org/winedown).



# DONOR *Recognition*

Thank you to the following donors for their generous support of the Desert Museum's stewardship, interpretive, and conservation efforts.

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ARIZONA-SONORA  
**DESERT  
MUSEUM**



The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert.

**Do you know a preschooler who would love to play like a packrat?** Join us for a private learning and active play session before the Playhouse opens to everyone else! Get to know the desert and its animals through art, science, music, and stories. Each program includes developmentally appropriate activities, a craft project, and a live animal encounter.

**Age:** 2-6 Years Old (*At least one adult chaperone is required and is included in the program price.*)

**Price:** \$10 Members; \$12 Non-Members

**When:** Every 1st Friday of the month; 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Register online:** [www.desertmuseum.org/packratplayhouse/](http://www.desertmuseum.org/packratplayhouse/)

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2021 N Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743-9719  
Phone (520) 883-2702 • Fax (520) 883-2500  
[www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org)

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## DESERT MUSEUM BLAST FROM THE PAST!



**On October 18, 2019, the Desert Museum celebrated its early years and the special people who worked here at a luncheon at the Museum.** Invited guests included those who'd worked here from the 50s/60s/70s and represented a wide range of departments including Exhibits, Photography, Administration, Education, Security (back then it was only one Night Watchman!), Custodial, Graphic Arts, Botany, and Mexico Programs.

