

HAPPY NEW YEAR! PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES

JANUARY 2015

SERVING THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA

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Audubon Has Big Plans For Paton's

By Ann Katzenbach

If you've been to Paton's bird sanctuary lately, you will have noticed big changes under way. Most obvious is that it is now called *Tucson Audubon's Paton Center for Hummingbirds*. This, as readers may remember, came about as the result of the property being purchased earlier this year under a joint agreement between Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours, the American Bird Conservancy, and Tucson Audubon. When all the necessary legal and financial papers were finalized, ownership passed to Tucson Audubon.

The new center was dedicated the first weekend in December. Supporters from around the country came to Patagonia for a variety of presentations and events that started on Friday evening with dessert and coffee in a big tent on the property and went through to a Sunday morning birding trip.

Bonnie Paton Moon, the daughter of Wally and Marion Paton, came from Connecticut to be here for



Photo by Ann Katzenbach

(From left): George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy, Paul Green of Tucson Audubon, and Victor Emmanuel of Victor Emanuel Tours put together a deal to purchase the Paton property

the celebration. Since her parents' deaths, Moon has held onto the property, hoping to find a way to save it for birders. She said it was a long process, and for many months she wasn't sure that the deal with Audubon would go through. Such property purchases by nonprofits are fraught with difficulties, but in the end, mainly through the efforts of George Fenwick, president of American Bird Conservancy; Paul Green of Tucson

Audubon; and Victor Emanuel, who runs a large and highly respected birding specialty tour company, the deal was finalized.

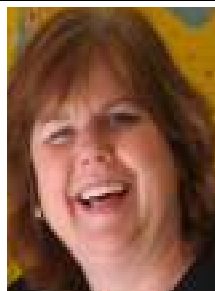
The Saturday segment of the weekend focused on the dedication of half the property that was, until a few months ago, an overgrown paddock. Under the leadership of Jonathan Horst, a restoration ecologist, there are now lots of hummingbird-attracting plants taking

root, along with native grasses and other bird-friendly plantings and a new water feature. It is now called the Richard Grand Memorial Meadow. Richard Grand was a well-known Tucson trial lawyer who was a passionate activist for the preservation and protection of nature and wildlife habitat. His widow, Marcia Grand, donated a large portion of the funding for the property and was present (continued on page 2)

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About Us

MISSION STATEMENT

To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz county—including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita—and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

WHO WE ARE

We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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at the dedication of the meadow. (The Center for Hummingbirds abuts the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, and Luke Reese, who manages the preserve, was at the Saturday celebration to represent one more element to the overall plan, that being a path through the woods connecting the two nature centers.

The house still looks much as it did, and Larry Murphy, who has been the cheerful and knowledgeable resident caretaker, plans to stay on for the time being. The backyard is unchanged for now, but future plans are for an architect-designed viewing pavilion that will provide 360-degree views of the property. Audubon also plans an orchard for the front yard. The center will not charge admission but hopes that visitors will continue to support it, hopefully at a higher level than in the past.

Victor Emmanuel took time out of a busy schedule to be at



Resident caretaker Larry Murphy and Bonnie Paton Moon

the opening celebration. He recalled another property in Arizona that was owned by a family who opened their yard to birders. When the couple died, so did the

private bird sanctuary. He said it would have been a tragedy for the birding community to lose Paton's. Patagonia would certainly have felt the loss.

Letters From Our Readers

An Innovative Partnership

This edition marks the third month of Patagonia High School's partnership with the Patagonia Regional Times (PRT) and on behalf of the Governing Board of the Patagonia Public Schools, I want to express our gratitude to the PRT staff for the opportunity and support that you have provided our students. Through this collaboration, the Journalism students have gained real print media experience and learned the joy of seeing their articles in print. The Lobo Lingo now has wider readership and the students realize that they need to raise the level of their writing skills to meet the expectations of the PRT's audience. Those students with published

articles can now add the hard copies to their high school portfolio.

For years, the Journalism class produced an 8.5 X 11 version of the *Lobo Lingo* that was mailed to over 3,800 households in Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita. The exercise had its benefits but it also had several tangible and intangible costs that the school could ill-afford: paper, mailing costs, staff time, wear and tear on our equipment and frustration. Inevitably, each month one or more of our copy machines would break down in the middle of the printing process.

Years of Federal and State budget cuts have strained the public education system and K-12 schools all over Arizona have had to trim programs and student ser-

vices. Small rural schools, like Patagonia, have been particularly affected. Each year, the Governing Board and the administration at Patagonia Public Schools work diligently to provide our students with the tools, infrastructure and programs they need to learn and succeed.

Working with the PRT is a shining example of a successful collaboration where both parties benefit. It has enriched our journalism course and provided our students with a way to share their campus life with the community at large. At the same time, the school has been able to save resources during a time of scarcity. As a nonprofit, the PRT has found another way to showcase local talent and serve its constituency.

The community of Patagonia has an amazing pool of talented people and we feel fortunate to be able to tap into that talent. This is an innovative partnership and demonstrates the advantages gained when two organizations come together to serve their community. We are sincerely appreciative.

—Denise Blake

No Enthusiasm

While I always respect the quality of Ann's writing I certainly hope the next opportunity a small town newspaper has a chance and perhaps more to the point; an obligation to the community, the writer can muster a bit more enthusiasm for this precious holiday than what was just offered. It was politically correct though, touched all the bases.

— Mike Thompson