

# Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Newsletter

*"To ensure the long-term survival of the full spectrum of plants and animals that are indigenous to Pima County through maintaining or improving the ecosystem structures and functions necessary for their survival."*

**May/June 2010**

## **Wildlife Water Enhancements at A7 Ranch**

Every year thousands of bats, birds, and other wildlife are drowned in livestock developments that lack adequate escape structures or are not designed to accommodate the needs of wildlife. This problem is particularly severe in arid Southwestern rangelands where wildlife relies on livestock waters throughout the year and exhibit increased demands during the hot and dry summer months. Drowning represents not only a threat to wildlife populations but can also become a water quality issue for the livestock. Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation have installed wildlife escape ramps on all the A7 water developments. The escape ramps were built according to a design developed by the Bat Conservation International. NRPR is also constructing new wildlife drinkers on the ranch, in a size and shape that will also serve to benefit bats, as well as deer, javelina, and other wildlife species.

## **Riparian Brochure**

The Pima County Regional Flood Control District, in partnership with the Tucson Audubon Society, has released an updated Riparian Ecosystems brochure. The brochure provides information

about riparian habitats in Pima County, how these areas benefit us and actions we can take to protect and conserve our riparian areas. Please check out the new brochure here:

[http://rfcd.pima.gov/outreach/pdfs/brochure\\_riparian\\_mailer2010.pdf](http://rfcd.pima.gov/outreach/pdfs/brochure_riparian_mailer2010.pdf) .

## **Environmental Education**

Just as the heat and humidity ramp up on the desert floor, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation has the perfect escape! Ditch the heat and head up to cool Mt. Lemmon where you can catch programs like The Life of a Black Bear, Forest Life after a Fire, take a hike and explore Mt. Lemmon butterflies and wildflowers, and learn about the venomous and poisonous animals of Arizona. For those that soak up the sun and thrive in the heat, you won't be disappointed with NRPR programs that offer bird watching, nature hikes, and more (like cooking with mesquite flour) around Tucson-area locations. For more events and scheduling, please visit the event calendar at NRPR's website:

<http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/calendar/index.htm>



Photos 1 and 2: Wildlife escape ramps installed in A7 Ranch livestock drinkers. Ramps are designed to enable small animals, including bats, to escape the livestock waters.

