

# Schedule

## Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve Research Symposium



October 24-25 Scottsdale Community College, Science Lecture Building  
9000 Chaparral Road, Scottsdale 85256



The Maricopa Community Colleges  
are EEO/AA Institutions.



### Saturday, October 24

8:00 - 8:20 - Sign-in and registration

8:20 - 8:30 - Welcome and introduction: Helen Rowe and John Weser

8:30 - 9:00 - Keynote Speaker - Virginia Korte, Scottsdale City Council

#### Oral Presentations

9:00 - 9:15 : Geologic History of the McDowell Mountains

9:20 - 9:35: Ghost Road

9:40 - 9:55: Vegetation and Flora of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

#### 10:00- 10:20 - Refreshment break - refreshments, posters and tours

#### Oral Presentations (continued)

10:35 - 10:50: Ground Dwelling Arthropods in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Results from a Three-Year Study

10:55 - 11:10: Endemic Desert Snails of the Valley of the Sun and Conservation of the Phoenix Talussnail (*Sonorella allynsmithi*)

11:15 - 11:30: A Survey of the Herpetofauna Occurring in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve

11:35 - 11:50: Non-Native Plant Species in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Assessing the Feasibility and Efficacy of New Technology in Vegetation Monitoring and Plant Ecology

11:55 - 12:10: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Stewards and the Experience of "Place": A Focus Group Pilot Study

#### 12:15 - 1:00: Lunch and Center for Native and Urban Wildlife guided tours

1:00 - 2:00: Poster presentations

2:00 - 2:30: Keynote speaker: Sharon Hall, CAP LTER

2:30 - 3:45: Panel Discussion: The Future of Conservation in the Phoenix Valley

3:45 - 4:00: Closing

### Sunday, October 25

#### 8:30 - 12:00 Guided Hikes in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Marcus Landslide Hike - Brian Gootee and Ron Rutowski

Brown's Ranch Hike - John Weser and Len Marcisz

#### 8:30 - 12:00 Scottsdale Community College Center for Native and Urban Wildlife workshops and tours

Bee box workshop

Tours of propagation yard

Willow cutting workshop

Tours of burrowing owl habitat

For information contact [mspresearch@mcdowellsonoran.org](mailto:mspresearch@mcdowellsonoran.org)

## Symposium Keynote Speakers

### Virginia Korte



Virginia Korte has been a member of the Scottsdale City Council since 2013 and President and CEO of Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS) since 2008. Ms. Korte served as the President and CEO and then President Emeritus of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce from 2002 - 2008. Virginia was the Director for the Center for Native and Urban Wildlife and Professor of Biology with Scottsdale Community College from 1998 until 2002 and led Ray Korte Chevrolet as the Owner and General Manager until 1998. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science both from Northern Arizona University. Virginia has been involved with numerous organizations helping make this community a better and more well-rounded place, including serving as a Board Member for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

### Sharon J. Hall



Sharon J. Hall is an ecosystem scientist who works across scales and focuses on features of an ecosystem as small as a microbe, to as large as a landscape. She and her collaborators seek to explore the drivers, patterns, and consequences of human activity in natural and managed ecosystems across the world. To achieve these goals, Hall and her research team focus on understanding the ecological feedbacks between humans and the environment. For example, her team measures the extent to which urban air pollution affects ecosystem health and functioning they work with engineers and agronomists to develop nutrient-efficient agricultural methods; they collaborate with teams in other cities to explore the socio-ecology of residential yard management; and they explore how villages in the developing world cope with rapid environmental change, such as biological species invasions.

## Panel Discussion Participants



**RJ Cardin**  
Director  
Maricopa County  
Parks



**Ian Dowdy**  
Director, Sun Cor-  
ridor Programs  
Sonoran Institute



**Kroy Ekblaw**  
Preserve Director  
City of Scottsdale



**Ken Vonderscher**  
Deputy Director  
Phoenix Parks &  
Recreation