

Quail Trail



Newsletter of the Cliff Rose Homeowners Association

Winter, 2005

www.cliffrosehoa.com

President's Comments

Diane Cooper, President

Greetings Cliff Rose residents! The end of the year is approaching and the Holiday Season is upon us.

Your Homeowners Board of Directors has completed another busy year. Elections were held and we have one new board member, Larry Githens, along with two returning board members, Bob Hayne and Jim Hughes. Larry has been a resident of Cliff Rose for just a little over a year. Larry, thank you for stepping up and getting involved with your Cliff Rose community.

The construction on Highway 89 is continuing and the morning beeping noise is a reminder that work is progressing. Construction of the New Adult Center on Rosser has begun. If everything goes as planned, our next Annual Meeting should take place at the new center. We will keep you informed!

On a more serious note, there was some reported vandalism in our community recently. A car parked on the street had the driver's side window completely smashed. If possible, park your vehicle in your garage at night. Installing motion detectors is another good deterrent for vandals. Contact your neighborhood Block Watch representative for additional security suggestions.

On another subject, a mountain lion has been sighted in the Cliff Rose area. Be sure to keep an eye on your children and pets.

Best wishes for a great Holiday Season!

Cliff Rose Newsletter Committee

Linda Cramer, Chair
Annie Carr, HOA Director
Wayne Cramer, HOA Director
Peggy Johnson, Committee Member
Linda Wolf, Editor, HOA Director



Illustration by Clint McKnight

Mice and Rats in Cliff Rose

by *Charles Vismeg*,
Cliff Rose Resident

Residents of this subdivision know that our natural environment hosts **mice** and **rats**. Their presence is not only a nuisance but also a health threat. This article will help home owners learn how to control and/or remove them from their properties.

Even though rodents are at the bottom of the vertebrate food chain, they are among the most successful mammal groups on earth. Their success is due to their high degree of adaptability. Because they are so adaptable, they are comfortable in all environments, including Cliff Rose.

Mice and **rats** are preyed upon by everything from coyotes to snakes, hawks and bobcats. As a result, they breed prolifically. Some subspecies, such as the **Hispid Cotton Rat** (*Sigmodon hispidus*) and the **Arizona Yavapai Cotton Rat** (*Sigmodon arizonae jacksoni*) are able to produce 8-10 litters a year. Their population fluctuates with drought and predation. Unfortunately, **mice** and **rats** are able to respond to favorable conditions by rapidly rebuilding their numbers.

Years ago the subspecies **Arizona Yavapai Cotton Rat** was collected 3 miles North of Fort Whipple. Some sources consider it no longer in existence in this area. Whether or not this subspecies still exists in this area is unknown.

Because interbreeding among species occurs, behavioral

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Cliff Rose Board of Directors

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characteristics of a particular species may arise again locally. Because of that possibility and past historical data, I will start with the species *Hispid Cotton Rat*.

The *Hispid Cotton Rat* is moderately large (8-12 ") and robust. It has blackish brown coarse hair and a scaly, sparsely haired tail. Both its undersides and the tops of its feet are silvery gray. It has a relatively large skull, eyes and ears. It ranges from the SE corner of California, Arizona, New Mexico, E. Colorado and across the U.S. to the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf states and the Rio Grande Valley into the 5000 ft. elevation.

Its habitat is dense cover in grassy fields, overgrown roadsides, fence row vegetation, marshy areas, cactus patches, and weedy ditch patches adjacent to cultivated areas.

The *Hispid Cotton Rat* is herbivore, eating roots, stems, leaves, seeds, fruits, berries and nuts. They are known to cut tall plants off at their base and then cut them down to manageable sections. They also eat insects; ground nesting birds' eggs and carcasses.

Generally, they are nocturnal, but not exclusively so. They don't store food or hibernate. They can swim. They are aggressive toward field mice. Their nests are a crude mass of grass fibers in shallow depressions, underground in shallow tunnels or under rocks or logs.

The species is very prolific, gestating in 27 days, weaned in 10-15 days, and begins breeding in 2-3 months. Their life span is about 6 months.

Damage caused by *Hispid Cotton Rat* usually occurs

during population peaks. affecting crops, grasses, vegetables, fruits, melons, and birds' (quail) eggs, affecting their nesting success.

Control Methods: Small areas can be protected by a sheet metal barrier 18 inches above and 6 inches below ground surface. Modifying their habitat by removing their nests is the best preventative measure. A lesser method is using chemical animal control and trapping methods. (Note: It has been suggested that frequent visitations by mice and rats around one's home can be curtailed by placing some vinegar or vinegar soaked cloth in those areas. Care has to be exercised though, as vinegar is an acid and would damage cement flooring, walkways or patios.)

Maintenance Committee Report

by Wayne Cramer,
Chairman



Looking back at the year 2005, I am pleased with the things the Maintenance Committee has accomplished, and at the same time I am disappointed that we could not have accomplished more.

I am particularly pleased that the Committee took on two projects: a security gate near the pond and erosion control retaining walls in one of our common area parcels, both at considerable savings to the Association. While the committee does not plan to "hire out" anytime soon, the time committed to completing projects for the Homeowners Association is truly time well spent.

I am pleased that we were able to convince our neighbors to the west that maintaining their retention pond was in the best interests of both subdivisions. On the other hand, our own retention pond did not dry out sufficiently before the monsoon to allow for as much maintenance as was required. But then there is always next year!!!

We still have several projects in the planning stages, including new signage for the subdivision, improved

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access to Ventnor Park, and better drainage within common areas. The year 2006 will be productive, and the committee hopes that you will appreciate the efforts.



Cliff Rose "Know Knows"

by Peggy Johnson

- Fellow ladies, grab your hankies and send me an e-mail if you have been thinking about participating in a chick-flick group. Get in at the beginning with all the arranging still to be done. So many options.....rentals?, theaters? goodies? health food? If you're interested e-mail me.
- The Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC) Neighborhood Ambassador Program is looking for interested Cliff Rose citizens to work with ROC Investigators. Help combat unscrupulous and unlicensed construction and home repair scams and prevent financial exploitation in Prescott neighborhoods. You can have access to a variety of resources through the ROC. Be the first to be alerted of home repair scams. For more information, call Toll Free 888-271-9286.
- If you have not yet occupied your new home, please notify the HOA secretary so she can keep our records updated. Annie Carr, HOA Greeter, would like to meet all new Cliff Rose homeowners and give them information about their new neighborhood. You may call Bobbi Tyler Board Secretary at 443-9708 or Annie Carr at 541-0951.
- Neighborhood Watch still has areas in Cliff Rose that are open for a Block Watch Captain. The job is rewarding, fun, and a great way to get acquainted. To get the particulars and to volunteer, contact Steve Skurja at 928- 778-1444.
- The Cliff Rose Ladies Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 8, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hassayampa Inn. Cost of the luncheon is \$20.00.

Cliff Rose Calendar

12/08 - Ladies Christmas Luncheon
12/31 - CRHOA Annual Fees are due

For last minute reservations, call Annie Carr at 541-0951 or Bobbi Tyler at 443-9708. Great prizes!!! The raffle will benefit Stepping Stones.

- The Cliff Rose Ladies Breakfast **will not** be held in December. A Holiday luncheon will be held instead.
- If you feed the birds, they drop the crumbs. Small animals feed on crumbs - larger animals feast on small animals.



Musings with Fred

by Fred Kircher, ACC
Chairman

This issue I will address protection of property. My, how differently people live their lives. One of my sons lives in a country area outside of Denver. The lots there only have rail or wire fences to pasture horses. More often than not, they forget to lock their doors at night or when they leave. They don't even think about being robbed.

My other son lives in suburban Phoenix where the small lots are surrounded by six foot concrete block walls. Every house has a burglar alarm and a steel security screen door, locked at ALL times. The windows are wired and there are motion sensors, inside and out. He explained how sliding glass doors and windows can be lifted from their track, even when locked. So, he drilled a hole in his door and installed a P/K screw in the upper track. The door still closes, but can't be lifted.

Ours may not be the country atmosphere enjoyed by my first son. We do lock up the house at night and may install a motion sensor with an exterior light. We certainly needn't be as **STRESSED** as my second son's neighbors. You can turn things around. Participate in your Neighborhood Watch Program, know your neighbors, and if you hear or see suspicious people around, call 911. A Prescott City police officer will arrive to investigate within nine minutes. Remember, "**STRESSED**" turned around is "**DESSERTS**". A bowl of ice cream will do fine.

**Architectural Control
Committee Musings**
by Fred C. Kircher,
Chairman



