

The conservation committee is -a group of diverse residents of the Desert Foothills brought together , by their appreciation for the great Sonoran Desert with its unique and remarkable fauna and flora. They are striving to heighten -i'desert awareness" of newcomers and long-time residents alike by presenting a variety of information relating to our desert environment.

With this goal in mind, the conservation committee has organized a series of classes with the community school called "Our Desert Heritage." If you are new to the state or even have just moved here from the Valley and are interested in learning more about our Foothills area, you will benefit greatly from the classes. They will be held at Cactus Shadows High School (Room C3) from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Following is a schedule of dates and topics:

Oct. 24 History of Cave Creek." Frances C. Carlson became interested in Cave Creek while researching Scottsdale's history. She began collecting material on Cave Creek, and has recently completed a book on Cave Creek history. She hopes to get it published soon. Carlson is an excellent speaker and will show some old, fascinating slides of founding residents.

Oct. 31 — "Desert Mammals" will be presented by Don Pollock from the U.S. Forest Service. Find out more about the big pussy cat who visits your watering hole.

Nov. 7 — "Landscaping with Desert Plants," presented by Craig Lundquist. If you have just built a home and are wondering how to landscape with the desert, Lundquist will provide excellent information which is not readily available at nurseries in the Valley.

Nov. 14 - "Birds of Our Area," is to be presented by Eleanor Radke. Radke is a longtime resident of Cave Creek and an ornithologist who has done extensive research work in this area.

Nov. 21 - "Reptiles" will be presented by Peter Mayne. This class is invaluable to new residents.

Dec. 5 — "Trees and Shrubs" will be presented by Gladys Nisbet, who is a botanist and was a teacher for many years. She also leads wildflower walks every spring.

Dec. 12 - "Cactus," presented by Andrew Romanyak. who is a docent at the botanical gardens. Romanyak's knowledge on cactus is invaluable to the new desert dweller.

Dec. 19 - "Foods from the Desert," presented by Corky Cockburn, a long-time resident who has done much cooking with foods collected from the desert.

In the past, these classes have been a great success but are only offered about every three years, so don't miss the opportunity to learn more about our desert heritage. For more information, contact Debbie Horton at the community school, 488-9816 or 488-4256; or Andrew Romanyak at 488-9188.