

FALL/WINTER 2022

DESERT CORNER JOURNAL

TOHONO CHUL'S NEWSLETTER



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Tohono Chul
GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO



A NOTE FROM JAMIE MASLYN LARSON TOHONO CHUL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EVERY STEP WE MAKE HELPS THE DESERT!

To me, when Dick and Jean Wilson created Tohono Chul, it was a shot-across-the bow moment to our region's residents and leaders: help us save this desert and all its life. Every step we make as an organization—or rather, as a community—must continue to lead with this bold intention in mind. So in my role as executive director, some questions naturally arise—how do we accelerate our impact? How do we invite more folks into our community? Can we try new programs and make new partnerships? We are taking steps, both big and small, to test new ideas and grow bit by bit every day. Take this journal, for instance. I have the privilege of being able to write exclusively to you, but I am not the only voice that represents Tohono Chul. There are perspectives besides mine that ought to be heard. So today (and more frequently) I will be asking others to share this platform with me to push the boundaries, share their love of our region, and inspire us to keep striving to preserve the Sonoran Desert. Today, Rick Brusca, esteemed scientist and former President of Tohono Chul's Board of Directors, has generously allowed us to share an op-ed that he wrote about water conservation policy. It's bold. It's sobering. It's important. And I hope it's what the Wilsons' would want to read:

"The Water Buffalo in the Room"

By Rick Brusca

The Colorado River supplies water to more than 40 million inhabitants in the American Southwest. Some of the larger municipalities relying on the river's water are Phoenix, Tucson, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Tijuana. But about 70% of the water from the Colorado River is used for agricultural irrigation, and that is the water buffalo in the room.

Today, a regional water supply crisis is occurring because of two things: (1) decreased precipitation caused by warming climates (we are now in year 22 of a drought in the southwest), and (2) legal and water management policies that allow systematic overuse.

By the end of 2022, combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the two largest reservoirs in the US, will have declined from 95% full in 2000 to about 25% full. The only way to reverse this trend and stabilize reservoir levels is to reduce water use to match diminished runoff.

The cornerstone for river water use is the 1922 Colorado River Compact, an agreement among seven states that divides the watershed into two parts: a Lower Basin that includes portions of Arizona, Nevada, and California, and an Upper Basin that includes portions of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and a small area in northern Arizona. The Compact apportions 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) per year to each basin and specifies the division between as Lees Ferry, in northern Arizona. Also, 1.5 MAF/year is guaranteed to Mexico.

This is a total of 16.5 MAF/year of river allocation. (One acre-foot of water is the amount of water that would cover an acre of land one foot deep.) The region is also home to 30 recognized Native America tribes that hold senior legal rights to divert substantially more water than they currently use.

However, the allotments are now greater than the water actually in the river. The 20th century natural flows at Lees Ferry averaged only 15.2 MAF/year, and since 2000 the average natural flow has dropped to just 12.3 MAF/year.

In recent years, the Upper Basin has used only ~3.7 MAF/year, while the Lower Basin and Mexico have used their full allotment of 9 MAF/year. Add to this an estimated loss of 2.4 MAF/year in evaporation,

and you get a total 15.1 MAF/year—a whopping 2.8 MAF/year more than the river has.

It's no wonder the levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell have plummeted. It is clear that a great deal more water is legally allocated than exists, or is likely to exist in the near (and possibly long-term) future.

This year, laws and agreements triggered for the first time require a reduction in water allotment to the Lower Basin of 13.5% (1.213 MAF/year). And, if Lake Mead storage declines to 6 MAF (23% of capacity), which is likely, then the reductions would reach 21.9% (1.975 MAF/year). A loss of 22% of our already over-committed Colorado River allotment will have huge impacts on urban and agricultural water use in Arizona, Nevada, and California.

While we can always do more in the area of urban water conservation (e.g., banning grass lawns, requiring all golf courses to use only recycled water, more efficient capture of rainwater to recharge our water tables, cracking down on how water users can justify their use of river water), it is clear that we must reduce the amount of water that we put on our crops.

Adding salt to our hydrological wound is the fact that a Saudi Arabian firm (Fondomonte) has, since 2015, leased land and groundwater rights west of Phoenix to grow alfalfa to ship to Saudi Arabia. Not only is the Saudi firm paying below market rates for the land, they are moving Arizona's precious water to the Middle East.

Cash receipts from Arizona's crops are around \$2.3 billion, or less than one percent (0.6%) of the state's overall GDP. The state often computes the value of its agriculture at 10 times this, or \$23.3 billion, by adding in various associated employment and revenues, around \$14 billion of which would come from corps. But even using this exaggerated number, crops would provide only 3.4% of the state's overall GDP. And yet, Arizona agriculture uses 72% of the state's water.

It is time Arizona began switching away from water-binging crops like cotton (~560,000 bales annually) and alfalfa (over 300,000 acres), to less water-intensive agriculture. However, it will likely take more political courage than exists in Arizona to push this issue.

Rick Brusca is a former President of Tohono Chul's Board of Directors. He is also a Research Scientist at the University of Arizona, former Executive Director of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and author of over 200 research articles and 20 books. His website is www.rickbrusca.com.



FALL PLANT SALE

Members' Preview: Wednesday | Oct 19 | 9am - 3pm

General Public:

Saturday | October 22 | 9am - 3pm

Sunday | October 23 | 9am - 3pm

The plant sale is located off of Paseo del Norte

Re-wild your yard! Our annual Fall Plant Sale offers a diverse selection of locally grown Sonoran native and arid-adapted plants. Our trusted plant advisors will help you choose the right plants to cultivate your own piece of the Sonoran Desert. Choose from a selection of blooming flora to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and native bees to your neighborhood.



GUATEMALAN CRAFTS SALE

**Friday, November 4 | Saturday, November 5
10am-4pm | Education Center**

FREE ADMISSION DURING THE SALE!

Bring a kaleidoscope of color into your home with the Guatemalan Crafts Sale. For almost a decade, we've hosted this trunk sale featuring an array of brilliant beaded jewelry, colorful shawls, handwoven textiles, contemporary purses, vests, table runners and embroidered square-cut blouses also known as traditional huipiles.

EXHIBITIONS 2022-2023



CARRIE SEID. Kintsugi. copper, acrylic and plexiglass in a powder coated aluminum frame



NICHOLAS BERNARD . Carved Brick Red Egg (close-up of surface). earthenware



PAUL WAID . Ember. oil on canvas



MICHAEL B. MASON. Powell's Prophecy no. 1 . acrylic on cradled panel



TAMARA HASTIE . Road to Somewhere . oil on linen panel

THE ELEMENTS: FIRE

[Main Gallery](#) | [through November 9, 2022](#)

FIRE is the third installment in the series: The Elements. The series investigates how artists utilize the elements of fire, air, water, and earth as medium, process, and subject. These elements reflect some of the social, economic, political, and environmental issues Arizona currently faces.

ALL FIRED UP!

[Welcome Gallery](#) | [through Nov 9, 2022](#)

An invitational exhibition that surveys the work of Arizona ceramists: Nicolas Bernard (Scottsdale), Rebecca Bish (Tucson), Sandy Blain (Tempe), Chandra Hershey-Lear (Tucson), Matthew Valiquette (Tucson), and Nan Wollman (Tucson)

ENTRY GALLERY PROJECT SPACE

[Paul Waid](#)

[October 28, 2022](#) – [January 1, 2023](#)

Tucson based artist, Paul Waid pushes elements of organic abstraction into the depths of the visionary landscape tradition; the paintings that are excavated pulse softly within indeterminate structures of light and time. The *Entry Gallery Project Space* series offers Arizona artists an intimate space for cohesive projects.

THE ELEMENTS: WATER

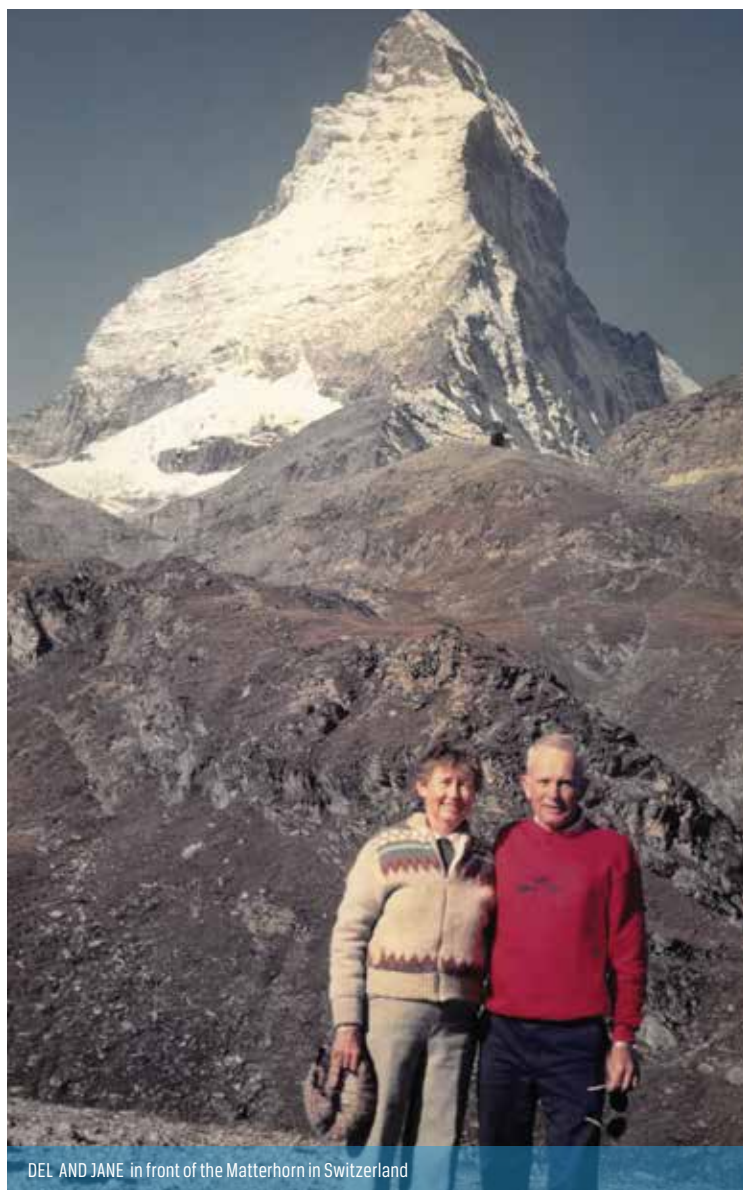
[Main Gallery](#) | [November 17, 2022](#) – [February 8, 2023](#)

WATER is the final installment of the series, The Elements. The crux of each installment is to contemplate human presence and responsibility (or lack of); move toward, hover, and dig at the intersection of art and science, all the while remaining focused on medium, process, and subject; never losing sight of beauty, wonder, and essence.

TAMARA HASTIE

[Welcome Gallery](#) | [Nov 17, 2022](#) – [February 8, 2023](#)

Explore the dynamic, angular, and incandescent paintings of Flagstaff-based painter Tamara Hastie. An intense connection to the outdoors allows Hastie the ability to record the essence of earth and sky, and all that they hold, in bold swaths of vibrating color that are exacting, descriptive, and spare.



DEL AND JANE in front of the Matterhorn in Switzerland

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

At 95 years young, Del Dickey is unquestionably one of Tohono Chul's longest supporters. He and his wife Jane became close friends with Dick and Jean Wilson in 1954 when Del and Dick worked as geologists for the US Geological Survey, a government agency that studies the landscape of the United States. The Wilsons moved to Tucson when Dick was offered a job at the University in 1962. It was another 23 years before Del and Jane made Tucson their permanent home, but like many others, they wintered here for many years prior.

Del began his volunteer service even before Tohono Chul was dedicated. He remembers when the "west home" was a halfway house for youth and when Jean opened the Haunted Bookshop in 1979. He remembers the Wilson's vision for "keeping something natural in the middle of all the

development" that would educate the public and promote the conservation of the natural desert.

A charter member in 1984, Del was also a member of Tohono Chul's very first docent class. He filmed each of the lessons so others could benefit. And so it began...a nearly 40-year career volunteering his time and talents to the upkeep and maintenance of the gardens. Del invested thousands of hours caring for the gardens, maintaining roofs, and keeping facilities painted. We have Del to thank for maintaining the woodwork around the gardens – the wooden gates and especially the memorial benches.

Del and Jane were avid hikers. They loved to golf and were passionate about the culinary arts. They were married 67 wonderful years before Jane's passing in September 2021. It was then that Del decided to name Tohono Chul as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Remembering Tohono Chul through his estate not only demonstrates his love for Tohono Chul, but also serves as an extension of his lifetime values. We thank and applaud Del for his lifetime of service and generosity.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TO TRANSFORM
TOHONO CHUL**

THE ENDOWMENT FOR TOHONO CHUL

If you wish to leave a gift to The Endowment for Tohono Chul, the following language is provided as an accommodation for you and your professional planner. It is not intended as legal advice. "I hereby leave (percentage of estate, amount of gift or the rest and residue) to Tohono Chul Park, an Arizona non-profit (#86- 0438592), 7366 North Paseo del Norte, Tucson, AZ 85704 to become part of The Endowment for Tohono Chul."

WILSON LEGACY SOCIETY

The Wilson Legacy Society is named in honor of the creators of Tohono Chul, Dick and Jean Wilson, who had the vision of creating our garden over 35 years ago. This special and unique society is home to those who love Tohono Chul so much that they've decided to make it a beneficiary to their will and/or trust. To learn more, contact Frank Vidal, Philanthropy Manager, at 520.742.6455 x261.



A view of the Children's Garden during Chillin at the Chul

SUMMER AT THE CHUL: A TIME FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND COMMUNITY

Many people consider southern Arizona to be pretty sleepy and to run a little bit slower during the summer months. But we here at Tohono Chul have been very busy innovating and experimenting as a place for locals to relax and enjoy simple summer pleasures! With a focus on broadening our offerings for everyone in the community, we introduced and expanded programs over the summer and saw our efforts result in thousands of new visitors discovering and enjoying all that Tohono Chul has to offer. Here are some highlights:

Chillin at the Chul In June, we introduced a brand-new way to enjoy our gardens with the Friday and Saturday evening Chillin at the Chul, a free event aimed at introducing more folks to the gardens while also setting the stage for future evening events. New guests, including hundreds of children, explored our beautiful gardens for the first time and we saw many folks return, again and again. Our staff, the Garden Bistro, and volunteers all pitched in to make improvements to programs, menus, etc. based on guest survey feedback. As a result, Chillin at the Chul received an amazing 4.65 star review!

Thanks to all of you who came out to make this such a successful venture. We look forward to this becoming another cherished tradition at Tohono Chul!

Desert Discovery Days In June, we also revived Desert Discovery Days, giving children the opportunity to interact with and learn more about nature. Each week focused on a different desert theme – from cactus to clouds. Through Desert Discovery Days, young participants gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for the desert we call home.

Activities included wellness such as meditation, yoga, and nature journaling, with desert conservation and preservation key themes throughout, introducing a whole new generation to the wonders of our southwest ecology.

Nature Niños At Nature Niños, kids ten and under got to play with bugs, learn about solar power, and experiment with creative chemistry. All of this was done in partnership with the Children's Museum Oro Valley (CMOV), and we are looking forward to growing our collaboration with CMOV as well as several other local non-profits in the coming months.



CHILLIN AT THE CHUL



WHAT'S NEXT?

We are building from the positive response to these events with new events for fall while continuing to grow and enhance the events you have loved for years:

- ◆ Brewin at the Chul, starting on October 1 at the Garden Bistro, will be a place for relaxing to music, sipping craft beers, and enjoying fall-themed foods in a delightful outdoor garden space
- ◆ Desert Discovery Days continues Saturday mornings, October through December
- ◆ Sundays in the Garden | Fall Concert Series begins October 2
- ◆ Fall Plant Sale is October 19, 22 and 23
- ◆ Guatemalan Craft Sale is November 4 & 5
- ◆ Holiday Nights is back December 9 & 10 and 16 & 17, with our first-ever Members' Preview Night on Saturday, December 3

Hope to see you here for these events and so much more! All of this could only happen because of you and your passion for and support of Tohono Chul.





SUNDAYS IN THE garden

FALL CONCERT SERIES		1:30 - 3:00 pm Performance Garden FREE WITH ADMISSION
OCTOBER 2	Pima Jazz Jazz	
OCTOBER 9	Purple Bamboo Asian Music Ensemble	
OCTOBER 16	Randall Dighton Singer-Songwriter	
OCTOBER 23	No Concert	
OCTOBER 30	Catalina Foothills Guitar Program Classical music and folk-rock	
NOVEMBER 6	Andres Pantoja Classical Guitar	
NOVEMBER 13	Ana Maria Iordache Classical Guitar	
NOVEMBER 20	Oro Valley Jazz Jazz	
NOVEMBER 27	No Concert	



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520.742.6455 | WWW.TOHONCHUL.ORG

HOURS:

Grounds | 8am - 5pm

Exhibits, Shops & Greenhouse | 9am - 5pm

Closed New Year's Day, 4th of July, Thanksgiving & Christmas



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HOLIDAY NIGHTS IS COMING!

Members' Preview Night: Saturday, December 3 | 5:30 - 8:30pm

Friday, December 9 & Saturday, December 10 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Friday, December 16 & Saturday, December 17 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

\$20 General Public | \$15 Members | \$6 Kids ages 3-12 | Kids under 3 are free! Tickets at tohonochul.org/holiday-nights

Mark your calendars for this year's Holiday Nights - fun for the whole family! Stroll along paths garlanded with twinkling lights while musicians and artists perform throughout the gardens. You're sure to enjoy the many distinct performances while you sip hot chocolate and enjoy tasty treats. Bring the family to visit Santa who will be here in person this year to share holiday tidings and special magic.

Not finished with your holiday shopping? Peruse the Museum Shops where you are sure to find a unique gift for that special someone or purchase the gift of a membership to Tohono Chul!



FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

Visit the tohonochul.org to register for classes or buy tickets for special events.

SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENTS

"All Aboard for Streetcar" Art Talk from the Tucson Museum of Art	Class	September 22	10am - 12pm
Tortilla Tutorial	Class	September 27	10am - 12:30pm
Gathering Entry Gallery Project Space	Exhibit	Through Oct 23	
The Elements - Fire Main Gallery	Exhibit	Through Nov 9	
All Fired Up Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	Through Nov 9	
The Professional Development Workshop for Artists	Workshop	September 26	10am - 12pm

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS

Brewin at the Chul	Event	Oct 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 Fri & Sat	5 - 9pm
<i>Michael Chiago: O'odham Lifeways Through Art</i> Book Signing & Sale	Event	October 1	11:30am - 2pm
Sundays in the Garden Fall Concert Series	Event	Oct 2, 9, 16, 30 Sundays	1:30 - 3pm
At Home in the Nest - Avian Life Cycles	Class	October 3	10am - 12pm
"Let's Meet in the Garden" Talk from the Tucson Museum of Art	Class	October 4	10am - 12pm
Exploring Nature Through Watercolor	Class	October 6, 13, 20, 27	1 - 4pm
Free Screening of Disney/Pixar's "Coco"	Event	October 7	6 - 9pm
Gourding 101	Class	October 7	10 - 11:30am
At Home in the Nest - Avian Life Cycles	Class	October 10	10am - 12pm
Tree Pruning 101	Class	October 11	10am - 12pm
Sonoran Desert Tree of Life	Class	October 13 & 20	9:30am - 12pm
Mosaic Garden Flower	Class	October 14	10am - 3:30pm
A "Novel" Project in Silver Clay	Class	October 15	9am - 12pm
CHARM-ing Memories	Class	October 15	1:30 - 4pm
At Home in the Nest - Avian Life Cycles	Class	October 17	10am - 12pm
Master Gardening	Class	October 18	10am - 12pm
Fall Plant Sale (Members' Preview: Oct 19)	Sale	October 22 & 23	9am - 3pm
GROUNDS for DRAWING	Class	October 24 & 25	10am - 1pm
Hypertufa Planters	Class	October 27	9am - 12pm
Paul Waid Entry Gallery Project Space	Exhibit	October 28	
Master Gardening	Class	October 29	10am - 12pm
Bloomin' Barrette	Class	October 29	1 - 4pm

FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

Visit the tohonocho.org to register for classes or buy tickets for special events.

NOVEMBER 2022 EVENTS

Brewin at the Chul	Event	Nov 4, 5, 11, 18, 19, 25, 26 Fri & Sat	5 - 9pm
Petscapes	Class	November 1	10am - 12pm
Sundays in the Garden Fall Concert Series	Event	November 6, 13, 20 Sundays	1:30 - 3pm
Guatemalan Craft Sale	Sale	November 4, 5	10am - 4pm
What in the World is Environmental Art?	Class	November 10	10am - 12pm
Mosaic & Wire Flower Design	Class	November 11	10am - 3:30pm
Electrocuted Gourds	Class	November 12	9:30am - 2:30pm
Dragonfly Fused Glass Tiles	Class	November 17	10am - 12pm
The Elements - Water Main Gallery	Exhibit	November 17	
Tamara Hastie Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	November 17	
A Pool Repurposed	Class	November 18	10am - 12pm

DECEMBER 2022 EVENTS

<i>Sonoran Desert Journeys</i> Book Release & Author Signing	Event	December 2	10am - 12pm
Holiday Nights (Members Only)	Event	December 3	5:30 - 8:30pm
Holiday Gourd-aments	Class	December 3	9:30am - 3pm
Christmas Memories in the Old Pueblo	Class	December 3	3:30 - 5pm
Pot a Plant for the Holidays!	Class	December 8	10am - 12pm
Holiday Nights	Event	December 9, 10, 16, 17	5:30 - 8:30pm
Mosaic Ornaments	Class	December 16	10am - 2pm



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