

# The Hummingbird Connection

The Journal of The International Hummingbird Society

October-December 2012

Double Issue



# It Was A Fantastic Festival!

## The Hummingbird Society Creates the First Sedona Hummingbird Festival

**T**hey came from twenty-one states and three foreign countries to be at our first Sedona Hummingbird Festival on August 3-4-5, 2012. And, based on the assessment forms we distributed and received back, they had a grand time!

This was an all-hummingbird festival, setting it apart from all other “hummingbird” festivals. Our presenters were experts in their particular niche of hummingbird knowledge, and the audience relished the opportunity to see and hear them. Feedback from attendees:

*“A great 1st Annual Hummingbird Fest!”*

*“Presentations were incredible!!”*

*“Can’t wait for next year!”*

Many people came up to me, took both my hands in theirs, and said, “Thank you for doing this.” That made it all worthwhile.

We chose August for our Festival because of the large number of migrating hummingbirds that pass through the Sedona area—rufous, broad-tailed, and calliope hummingbirds, joining the population of Anna’s and black-chinned resident species here for nesting. Some Sedona locations have over 1,000 hummingbirds a day visiting their feeders. It is a chance to be “up close and personal” with more hummers and more species than many people have ever seen.

Sedona is located in northern Arizona at an altitude of 4,500 feet (1,370 m.), giving it cooler weather than most of the state’s southern half. The average low temperature in August is 62° and the average high is 92°. Humidity is very low. Occasional “monsoon” rains give rise to scattered showers and rainbows, but 3.5” of rain for the month is *not* a monsoon.

The natural “red rock” scenic beauty of Sedona attracts visitors from around the world. Fortunately, in August there are not as many of these tourists in Sedona, keeping lodging rates down.

### Gala Banquet

On Thursday night before the Festival, we held a kick-off banquet at Sedona Rouge and Spa. A capacity crowd of 96 was a *sellout*! Beautiful hummingbird table centerpieces were created by the High

Desert Design Group. The celebratory mood, anticipating a successful first-time festival, were justified.

### Presentations

We chose the Sedona Performing Arts Center, the new auditorium of the Sedona Red Rock High School, as the venue for three days of presentations by our experts. A partial list of presenters:

- **James Currie**  
Outstanding wildlife enthusiast; host of *Nikon’s Birding Adventures*; exceptional videos/photos
- **Dr. Chris Clark**  
Scientist known for studying how hummingbirds make sounds with their feathers
- **Dr. Juan Bahamón**  
Exceptional hummingbird photographer
- **Don and Noriko Carroll**  
Creators of the awarding-winning book and video, “First Flight”
- **Dr. H. Ross Hawkins**  
Founder of the Hummingbird Society and professional speaker on hummingbirds

### Special Presentation: Hummingbird Conservation Lecture

A special presentation was made on Saturday night, when Dr. Luis A. Mazariegos H. spoke about the rich hum-

mingbird life found in his home country of Colombia (143 species!). As founder of the Hummingbird Conservancy in that country—which hosts 5 of the 34 endangered hummingbird species—he is intimately familiar with the need for conservation efforts there. The entire ticket sales from his presentation were dedicated to helping his organization.

We will make this conservation lecture a regular feature of future festivals, choosing a different organization and speaker for each.

For 2013 we have invited Dr. Dusti Becker for her tireless efforts to protect the critically endangered Esmeraldas Woodstar in Ecuador. More to follow.



The first Sedona Hummingbird Festival was made possible in part by a grant from the City of Sedona.



A portion of the hummingbird garden of Bill and Roseann Ebert, Sedona. The tall magenta spikes to the left are *Agastache X “Ava,”* one of the hummers’ favorites.

*Photo by Beth Kingsley Hawkins.*



## Garden Tours

A self-guided tour of six Sedona gardens specifically designed to attract hummingbirds was a *sellout!* Owners of the gardens had made special efforts to expand their nectar-bearing flowers. It showed.

At the Ebert home, pictured to the left, a wide variety of plants were included (see list on next page). Note the red rocks in the background and the blue sky: Sedona averages 330 days a year of sunshine. Next year the garden tour will run two days, so more people can participate.

## Hummingbird Hotspots

At numerous sites in the Greater Sedona area, feeders are known to draw large numbers of hummingbirds. Often these sites are at the interface between developed and undeveloped land. Some justify being labeled "hummingbird hotspots." We plan to find more of these, however, so the next Festival will have plenty of see. As mentioned earlier, some of these experience over 1,000 hummingbirds a day.

The CBS Evening News visited Sedona for our event. You can view the short clip broadcast August 15 at: <http://vimeo.com/47659247>

## Sunrise Breakfasts

At the first and last meals of the day, hummingbirds have voracious appetites, sometimes taking in 25-30% of their



Challenged to design a logo for the Sedona Hummingbird Festival, Sedona artist June Payne Hart created this wonderfully symbolic image of two Anna's Hummingbirds (female and male) in front of Sedona's most iconic red rock formation, Cathedral Rock. June is internationally known for her animal paintings. See story on page 5.

body weight at a single feeding. Feeders become crowded as hungry hummers fight for space to satisfy their appetites.

So, we thought, what a great opportunity to have people visit some of Sedona's known hotspots and have their breakfast at the same time...even though it meant having breakfast at 6:30 am!

We had four participating homes, and we had a sell-out at each home on each of the three days! Those who attended raved about being so close to so many hummingbirds and assured us they'd be back next year.

## Banding Demonstrations

Steve and Debbie Bouricius, licensed hummingbird banders from Palisade, Colorado, set up their band-

ing operation at two locations in Sedona. The expectation was that they were situated at hotspots, where it would be easy to find candidate hummers to examine, measure, and band.

While banding was successful, and many were able to watch the process in action for the first time in their lives, it was sometimes slow going. Yet who in



the observing crowd was not moved at the sight of a young girl releasing a just-



An exciting part of the Festival was a raffle held in the Hummingbird Mall that included this beautiful afghan, hand crocheted by Sandra Dunn West of Lakewood, Colorado and donated to the Hummingbird Society for fundraising. It was won by Pam Koch (far left) of Flagstaff. Here she and Beth Kingsley Hawkins show off the afghan. Pam is a long-term member of the Society, an avid gardener (especially of hummingbird flowers!), and a terrific photographer.



banded hummingbird from the palm of her hand?

In the Society's view, banding is one of the most critical, essential ways to know for certain what is happening during migration and other hummingbird movements. The dedicated group of U.S. banders of hummers is small, having only about 100 members. We can't praise them highly enough.

### Hummingbird Mall

We created a space called the Hummingbird Mall for attendees and others to shop for "everything hummingbird." Booths offered photography, art of several types, jewelry, specialized feeders,



hummingbird quilts, general birding items, and more.

The Society had a double booth offering a wide variety of hummingbird-themed merchandise. Two of our enthusiastic volunteers—Kathy Dunham and Jackie Klieger, pictured in the photo to the left—staffed the booth for the entire three days of the Festival. They told us it was a very popular booth! (Photo by Pat Izzo)

June Payne Hart, the artist who created our Festival logo, had a booth to share her artistry. (Logo, page 7; story, page 5)

### Coming in the 2013 Festival

To keep the Festival program fresh, we plan for at least a 75% turnover of presenters. We will maintain a diverse mix of topics: science, conservation, gardening, photography, videography, and attracting hummingbirds.

A special new topic will be the care of hummingbirds in captivity. We have already signed up two world experts: Dr. Jacques Ducros (France), who has one of the few private hummingbird aviaries in Europe, having about one hundred birds; and Ms. Karen Krebbs, who was curator of the hummingbird aviary of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (Tucson) for fifteen years. No other festival has offered such a team!

**Save the date:  
August 2-3-4, 2013**

### To Keep Up With Festival plans:

- Check the Festival website
- Sign up for Festival e-letter (website)
- Watch announcements sent by mail ■

### FLOWERS IN THE EBERT GARDEN

#### Perennial plants

*Agastache/Hyssop (many varieties)*  
*Fuchsia* esp California  
*Salvia (many varieties)*  
 Star Jasmine  
 Trumpet vine 'Madame Galen'  
 Bee Balm (*Monarda*)  
 Lavender spice (*Mexican oregano*)  
 Catmint (*Nepeta 'Walkers Low'*)  
*Canna lilies*  
*Penstemon (many varieties)*  
 Phlox  
 Columbine, esp. native yellow  
     (*Aquilegia chrysantha*)  
 Trumpet honeysuckle  
 Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)  
*Lobelia cardinalis*  
 Mallow (*many varieties*)

#### Trees

Chitalpa  
 Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
 Mimosa

#### Shrubs

Manzanita  
 Pomegranate  
 Yellow bird of paradise  
     (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*)

## 2013 Boosters Sought!

It now appears that it will take two years, or possibly three, before the Festival is self-financing. While we have a modest carryforward of cash from this year's event, it isn't enough. We have to develop some additional financing, as

before, early in the cycle: to secure the venues and put together the promotional materials. To that end we have restarted the Festival Boosters. We would like to join us. Would you consider donating \$100 to become a Festival Booster

to help us get the 2013 festival started? Send your check to the Hummingbird Society at our new address: 6560 State Route 179, Suite 124 Sedona, AZ 86351 ■

The International Hummingbird Society, founded in 1996, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission of teaching about hummingbirds and working to protect the species at risk of extinction. It is supported primarily by individual and corporate memberships.

This is a low-resolution excerpt from the 12-page, December 2012 issue of *The Hummingbird Connection*, which is published for our members. It is not available for sale.

In 2012 the Society held its first annual Sedona Hummingbird Festival. We expect this to become the primary such event in the nation, with its total focus on hummingbirds. Details of the next event are to be posted at [www.SedonaHummingbirdFestival.com](http://www.SedonaHummingbirdFestival.com).

Won't you be a part of our organization? Or, do you have a friend or relative who loves hummingbirds, who would thus love a gift membership? You can use the form below.

**Please Print**

*I understand this information is for use by the Hummingbird Society and will not be shared with any other organization.*

Title	First Name	Middle	Last Name	
Spouse/Partner	Title	First Name	Middle	Last Name
Address				
City	State	ZIP/Postal Code	Country	
Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Home	<input type="checkbox"/> mobile	E-mail address	
<b>Payment:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check, payable to The Hummingbird Society				
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit card (Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express)				
Card Number	Expiration Date	3-digit security code	Signature	

**DONATION** Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a memorial donation? ☐ Yes, In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify \_\_\_\_\_ (gift amount will be omitted)

**MEMBERSHIP:** ☐ New ☐ Renew

- | \$                             | Level of Membership   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Magnificent Hummingbird Angel                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400   | Rufous Hummingbird Angel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 250   | Anna's Hummingbird Angel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100   | Calliope Hummingbird Angel                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50    | Friend  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36    | Individual/Family General Membership (delivered outside the US) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30    | Individual/Family General Membership (US)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <b>Business Member</b>  |

☐ **Gift Membership**

(select level on left) for

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_

(Message) \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORSHIP:**

- | \$                                | Level of Sponsorship             |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 | Santa Marta Sabrewing [Colombia] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20,000   | Dusky Starfrontlet [Colombia]    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15,000   | Esmeraldas Woodstar [Ecuador]    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000   | Chilean Woodstar [Chile]         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5,000    | Colorful Puffleg [Colombia]      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2,500    | Honduran Emerald [Honduras]      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000    | Juan Fernández Firecrown [Chile] |

Print this page, complete it, and mail to:

The Hummingbird Society  
6560 State Route 179, Suite 124  
Sedona, AZ 86351

\* You may also join/donate/gift online at [www.hummingbirdsociety.org](http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org)