

Final Homework –Thoughts and Words to live by from fellow Tucson Stewards

- The desert is an especially fragile fabric and there is an impossibly complex weave by natural systems on which it relies. Pluck any one thread and the fabric is marred. Pluck the water thread and the fabric falls apart. Strengthen the weave – protect water resources and understand impacts on them before we change this environment in irreparable ways.
- Action happens with one individual first. If we don't act now, we might not have tomorrow.
- The on-going climate change is real and this environmental change along with world wide population growth and fast-paced industrialization in third world countries will make water conservation the most important issue that mankind will have to address this century. We will all have to change our mindsets or we will undoubtedly become very thirsty and hungry. Otherwise we will be making life changing decisions that we would have never even thought about twenty years ago. Protection of our watersheds and real water conservation efforts should be a priority focus in every home and community.
- Water and energy are inextricably combined
- Many questions were raised during this program, many were answered but some will remain. The most important question lingers: How much water do we have here in the west? How long will it last? I don't know. But I know I respect water as essential to my physical and spiritual life and all my daily activities are happily conditioned by the desire to preserve it, by reducing the amount I use and by changing the way I live in every way, because water is implied in everything.
- Presenter Ann Audrey inspired me. Her idea, as I understood it, was that nature is just fine without us. In other words, don't "plant" a yard – encourage the native vegetation by leaving it alone. Return disturbed areas to native vegetation. Don't suppose that human "gardening" ideas are in any way superior to the marvelous systems that has naturally evolved.
- 1.) Total rainfall in Tucson exceeds the amount delivered by municipal water companies for municipal and industrial uses. 2.) Twelve inches of rainfall results in approximately ¼" of recharge to the aquifer.
- Nothing we do will make any difference in the long run if humanity doesn't get a handle on its' reproductive rate.
- Know your watershed
- The water situation in the Southwest will remain the highest priority. All efforts will need to be in place as population and land use changes. Lessons learned in the

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- watershed class will help us steward some of these issues. Perhaps the future will be brighter than we think.
- To help promote water issues and the knowledge by community education and volunteering.
  - Use your awareness and concern to listen, read, and do.
  - 1.) Know what you are using, doing... 2.) Know about other people's ways, ideas, habits, reasons... 3.) Have a fun time sharing and growing and see if you use less.
  - Hi! I like potatoes....sometimes
  - In addition to any personal shift in priorities and behaviors it is most important to communicate to elected representatives at every level.
  - Homework for March 30, 2008. We learned tons of valuable things in this class, but the one that I would like to mention for today's homework is the correct strategy to eradicate buffelgrass...The speaker who talked about invasive species and noxious weeds described the proper procedure for buffelgrass eradication when the strategy is pulling (as opposed to using a herbicide). One should attack the buffelgrass by starting from the outside perimeter and move inwards. Small colonies of the grass that have migrated beyond the central colony should also be pulled. As I hike in the Tucson Mountains and in the Catalinas, I am dismayed by the spread of buffelgrass. Knowing the proper procedure for eliminating buffelgrass from these areas is essential.