

A Dose of Desert Joy: monsoon lightning + raindrops > Inbox x

Kathleen Kennedy

to me ▾



Dear Pamela,

What a relief that after the "non-soon" of 2020, the 2021 monsoon season has arrived with gusto. Washes are flowing, desert plants are erupting in new growth, monsoon lightning shows have been incredible, and animals are on the move seeking out new water sources and a rapidly increasing food supply. We are trying to soak up every minute of this unique and special season in the Sonoran Desert and we hope you are too.

While I try to keep these emails focused on the joys of desert, it feels important to mention that we are again engaging directly with a threat to the Sonoran Desert, namely a proposed route for Interstate 11 through Avra Valley that would "thread the needle" between Saguaro National Park, Ironwood Forest National Monument, Tohono O'odham tribal lands, and other important protected open spaces. **If you have time this weekend, please check out our [updated I-11 webpage](#) and consider submitting a comment on the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statement on this project, including a request to extend the public comment period from 30 days to 120 days.**

Thank you so much for your love for the desert and your advocacy on its behalf. And keep your eye out for more on I-11 in the days ahead.

If you take any photos out on your adventures and would like to share them, please send them our way. Email me anytime at kathleen.kennedy@sonorandesert.org and I'll include your photo(s) in one of our next editions of *A Dose of Desert Joy*.

We also have a [form on our website](#) if you want to share any short written stories, observations, or anecdotes about what you're seeing on your desert adventures or in your own backyard. I'd love to feature your words in a future email.



Rodger Bivens captured this incredible lightning strike during a recent monsoon storm. Thank you Rodger!



With plant growth taking off now that the monsoon rains have arrived, Debbi Golden-Davis captured the light streaming through this century plant. Thank you Debbi!

My heart is moved by all I cannot save
so much has been destroyed

I have to cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,

with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.

-Adrienne Rich



Bob Shea took this beautiful, detailed photo of an Anna's hummingbird sitting in its nest. Thank you Bob!



Sometimes beauty can be found in unexpected places. We love this photo of raindrops falling on a newly formed puddle next to prickly pear cactus, captured by Li Schmidt. Thank you Li!

Love is an impulse which springs from the most profound depths of our beings, and upon reaching the visible surface of life carries with it an alluvium of shells and seaweed from the inner abyss. A skilled naturalist, by filing these materials, can reconstruct the oceanic depths from which they have been uprooted.

-José Ortega Y Gasset



Claire Letourneaux shared this stunning photo of a full rainbow over the Santa Catalina Mountains, taken by one of her neighbors. Thank you Claire!

The latest wildlife camera photos!

We now have a fleet of over 80 wildlife cameras watching over Sonoran Desert wildlife and gathering needed data as they move and live within important wildlife linkages. **We couldn't ensure their freedom to roam without the hard working Desert Monitors and Desert Identifiers that are so instrumental to this program!**

The photos below were taken by our flagship DEER camera. We especially love the photo of the front of a monsoon flow in this wash. The DEER camera is monitored by Margie O'Hare and Terry Minks. Thank you Margie and Terry!



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CORE_CAM

86F 30C



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CORE_CAM

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DEER

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*We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on traditionally
Native lands, including those belonging to the
[O'odham](#), [Tohono O'odham](#), and [Pascua Yaqui](#).*

Our Contact Information

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

738 N. 5th Ave. Suite 205

Tucson, AZ 85705

5203889925

<http://www.sonorandesert.org>



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