



**NEWS**

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## **VALLEY FORWARD PRESENTS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO NINA MASON PULLIAM RIO SALADO AUDUBON CENTER**

PHOENIX (Oct. 3, 2010) The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center won the coveted *President's Award* (Best of Show) in Valley Forward's 30<sup>th</sup> annual Environmental Excellence Awards (EEA) program, held in partnership with SRP. The project sits at the heart of the \$100 million riparian habitat restoration along the Rio Salado river corridor south of downtown Phoenix. It illustrates how innovative design, thoughtful construction, enlightening educational programs and a community committed to sustainability can work together to create an environmental success story.

For many decades the dry riverbed has been a scar dividing the community. Constructed on a brownfield site, the Audubon Center restored the barren desert using native landscape and earned the first LEED Platinum certification for a green building within the city of Phoenix.

"The Audubon Center is a showcase of environmental excellence and embraces virtually all categories in our competition," said Diane Brossart, president of Valley Forward. "This legacy project is a community treasure that brings people together to enjoy the lush Sonoran riparian corridor, which is home to many species of birds and other wildlife. It's truly a special place for all to enjoy."

In addition to the President's Award, the Audubon Center won a first-place Crescordia Award in the *Buildings & Structures – Institutional* category. Crescordia is a Greek term meaning, "to grow in harmony," and the President's Award is selected from among all Crescordia recipients. The center also received an Award of Merit in the non-profit category of *Environmental Education/Communication* for its "Water's Changing Journey" program.

A record 150 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on environmental initiatives. Winners were announced Oct. 2, at Valley Forward's awards gala attended by some 600 community leaders at The Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale.

Valley Forward and SRP presented 21 first-place Crescordia winners and 40 Awards of Merit. The awards set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment in the region's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development.

The Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands is the only project to receive two Crescordia Awards. A collaborative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and five Valley cities to restore the wetland and riparian habitat in the Salt River bottom, the project is located less than 20 miles from downtown Phoenix and provides a quiet and lush environment to enjoy hiking and bird watching.

The Crescordia for *Environmental Stewardship – SRP Award* was presented to the City of Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. It was recognized for almost a century of leadership in systematically preserving tens of thousands of acres of pristine desert for biking, horseback riding and hiking.

John Kane, founding partner and design principal of Architekton, served as lead judge for the program. Other jurists included: Steve Gollehon, vice president and managing partner of HDR Architects; Tim Lines, managing vice president of Stantec Consulting Inc.; Caroline Lobo, director of the Education Studio at The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership; Steven Voss, president of LVA Urban Design Studio; Mike Cooley, supervisor of industrial design for General Dynamics; Laurel Kimball, president of The Greenleaf Group, Inc.; Kate Timmerman, public artist; and Xan Simonson, biotechnology specialist for Mesa Public Schools.

*In addition to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands and the City of Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, Crescordia winners include:*

***Taliesin Mod.Fab*** (Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture)

To explore and employ modular fabrication techniques, the students of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture designed and constructed the prototype for Mod.Fab at Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's desert home and studio in Scottsdale and the school's winter campus.

***LEED Platinum Scottsdale Fire Station No. 2*** (LEA-Architects)

This project is the first fire station in the country to receive LEED platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The two-story emergency service facility utilizes sustainable green building principles to maximize overall energy performance.

***Sandra Day O'Connor House/Green Line Restoration*** (City of Tempe/Rio Salado Foundation)

The historic Sandra Day O'Connor House, originally constructed in Paradise Valley as a family home for the former Supreme Court Justice, represents a milestone in sustainability. A preservation-by-relocation effort was undertaken and piece-by-piece, the entire house was deconstructed and transported to Tempe. It was meticulously reconstructed in Papago Park, with a keen focus on historic preservation.

***The Link*** (merzproject, a studio of Shepley Bulfinch)

Located in the heart of the Phoenix Cultural District and in close proximity to light rail, local bus routes and commuter transportation, no additional parking spaces were constructed for this two-story office building. Ample nearby community services – retail, restaurants, civic institutions and municipal parks – create a pedestrian-friendly environment integrating The Link and invigorating the existing urban fabric.

***Kierland Commons*** (Woodbine Southwest Corporation)

A 38-acre destination located on the Phoenix and Scottsdale border, Kierland Commons was designed in 1997 to be the first urban village to vertically integrate mixed-used with outdoor shopping in the Valley. The project is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a sustainable, time-tested model and benchmark for similar mixed-use destinations around the nation.

***Superstition Springs Transit Center*** (City of Mesa, Valley Metro RPTA)

This landmark project communicates the sustainable aspects of transit usage in its design while serving as an important and purposeful alternative for travelers. Great care was taken to make Valley Metro's first construction project in 23 years harmonious with the surrounding environment.

***Papago Park Regional Master Plan*** (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe)

Papago Park dates back to pre-historic civilizations and is now centrally positioned in an intense urban environment of 2.8 million people. Staggering growth has placed pressure on the unique park environment, creating need for a cohesive master plan. Surrounding communities came together for the first time to develop the next great American park.

***Paradise Reserve*** (LVA Urban Design Studio)

An enclave of exquisite hillside home sites, this community is nestled into one of the last remaining privately held properties bordering the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. At 46 acres, the site was developed to include only 14 single-family homes on sensitive hillside slopes, preserving the environmental character for years to come.

***ASU Polytechnic Academic Complex*** (Arizona State University, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects)

This project consists of 21 acres of site work and five new classroom buildings that transform the previously barren Air Force base into a thriving campus for learning. Streets that used to flood have been turned into water-harvesting arroyos, giving students and faculty a daily connection to nature.

***Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital H.N. and Frances C. Berger Thomas and Joan Kalimanis Healing Garden*** (Ten Eyck Landscape Architects)

A barren unused space at the heart of the hospital was renovated to bring life and beauty into the everyday experience of patients and staff. The Healing Garden transformed the previously unused sterile courtyard into a multi-sensory wellness setting that is seamless with the architecture.

***Western Canal Multi-Use Path Project*** (City of Tempe)

This mixed-use trail travels approximately six miles throughout Tempe, connecting it with three surrounding cities and completing a critical link in the Valley's Pedestrian Freeway. The site plan and design link bicycle and pedestrian activity with four parks, three schools, numerous recreational facilities, employment centers and dozens of retail outlets.

***Paseo Vista Recreation Area*** (City of Chandler)

The city of Chandler's Paseo Vista Recreation Area is the Valley's first municipal park to be constructed on a former landfill, and in just six months, has become a destination for exploring tranquility, amenities and dynamic views. This project transformed a large unusable parcel of land into a unique, high-quality recreation area.

***The Zanjero's Line*** (Phoenix Office of Cultural Affairs)

A sculptural vocabulary of cast iron buckets, planks and boulders celebrates the agricultural heritage of the South Mountain community. New gate structures at 40th Street, 24th Street and Francisco Highland Park distinguish the major street and park access to this small but vital canal. A palette of environmentally sensitive materials includes steel, stone, polished concrete with varied aggregate, recycled pavement, desert planting and landscaping.

***Mine Water Treatment & Recovery System*** (Resolution Copper Mining)

One of the largest copper resources in North America and possibly worldwide is located in a deposit more than a mile below the surface. In order to dewater the former Magma Mine and sink a new 7,000-foot exploratory shaft, the mining company had to extract and manage about 2 billion gallons of accumulated mine water inventory, as well as about 300 million gallons per year of new inflow.

***LandscapewithStyle.com*** (Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association)

LandscapewithStyle.com is a web-based interactive guide for designing, installing and maintaining a desert-friendly landscape. This newly launched resource clearly outlines the specifics of xeriscape in a creative and inviting user-friendly format.

***GreenStreet: Environmental Education (GreenStreet)***

Buildings are responsible for 43 percent of carbon emissions, 21 percent of which are attributable to single-family homes in the country. This program suggests that the best way to address the issue is to renovate existing structures and make them more energy efficient while reducing water use and creating healthier places to live.

***Global Climate Change in the Southwest: An Academy for Educators (Center for Teacher Success)***

For three consecutive years, this innovative center has brought environmental education and awareness to the head of the class by providing Arizona educators an opportunity to participate in professional development academies. More than 60 educators from 18 schools in Greater Phoenix, Chino Valley, Eloy and Payson attended this year.

***\*EDITOR'S NOTE: Project photos, additional details and Award of Merit descriptions can be provided, upon request.***

***A complete list of 2010 Environmental Excellence Award Winners and Categories is included below and on the pages that follow.***

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**ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS – COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS**

***BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Residential***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Taliesin Mod.Fab

Submitted by: The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: GreenStreet: Residential Renovation

Submitted by: GreenStreet

Name of Entry: Earll Residence

Submitted by: StudioROEDER

***BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Civic***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: LEED Platinum Scottsdale Fire Station No. 2

Submitted by: LEA-Architects, LLC

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library

Submitted by: SmithGroup

Name of Entry: City of Glendale, Relocation of Fire Station No. 151

Submitted by: DWL Architects + Planners, Inc.

**BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Historic Preservation**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Sandra Day O'Connor House/Green Line Restoration

Submitted by: City of Tempe

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Link

Submitted by: merzproject, a studio by Shepley Bulfinch

Name of Entry: El Chorro Lodge

Submitted by: APS and Desert Star Construction, Inc.

**BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Commercial & Mixed Use**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: The Link

Submitted by: merzproject, a studio of Shepley Bulfinch

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Freeport-McMoRan Center

Submitted by: SmithGroup

Name of Entry: Collier Center

Submitted by: CB Richard Ellis-Asset Services

**BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Institutional**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center

Submitted by: Weddle Gilmore Black Rock Studio

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Saguaro Building at Mesa Community College at Red Mountain Campus

Submitted by: SmithGroup

Name of Entry: Glendale Community College North

Submitted by: RNL

**BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: Industrial & Public Works**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands

Submitted by: Archer Western Contractors

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Santan Vista Water Treatment Plant

Submitted by: City of Chandler and Town of Gilbert

Name of Entry: Cowley Companies: Largest Rooftop Solar Installation in AZ

Submitted by: APS

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Sustainable Communities**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Kierland Commons

Submitted by: Olson Communications, Inc.

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Paradise Village Solar Demonstration Project

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Adaptive Reuse**

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: McCarty on Monroe

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Housing Department

Name of Entry: Comprehensive Integration of Adaptive Reuse Programs

Submitted by: U-Haul International

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Superstition Springs Transit Center

Submitted by: Valley Metro RPTA

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Mesa Main Street LINK Bus Stations

Submitted by: Valley Metro RPTA

Name of Entry: Little Canyon Trail

Submitted by: The Phoenix Office of Cultural Affairs

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Public Policy/Plans**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Papago Park Regional Master Plan

Submitted by: Olsson Associates

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix Tree and Shade Master Plan

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

Name of Entry: El Mirage General Plan

Submitted by: City of El Mirage

**SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE: Residential**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Paradise Reserve

Submitted by: LVA Urban Design Studio, LLC

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Desplaines Residence

Submitted by: Salazar Associates Architects, LTD

Name of Entry: GreenStreet: Site Development

Submitted by: GreenStreet

**SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: ASU Polytechnic Academic Complex

Submitted by: Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, Inc.

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Sandra Day O'Connor House/Green Line Restoration

Submitted by: City of Tempe

Name of Entry: Rio Salado South Bank Multi-Use Path Project

Submitted by: City of Tempe

**SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital H.N. and Frances C. Berger Thomas  
and Joan Kalimanis Healing Garden

Submitted by: Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, Inc.

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

Submitted by: ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance

Name of Entry: Paradise Village Core and PV Mall Revitalization

Submitted by: JJR|Floor

**SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE: Trails**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Western Canal Multi-Use Path Project

Submitted by: City of Tempe

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Little Canyon Trail

Submitted by: The Phoenix Office of Cultural Affairs

Name of Entry: The Zanjero's Line

Submitted by: The Phoenix Office of Cultural Affairs

**SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE: Parks**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Paseo Vista Recreation Area

Submitted by: City of Chandler

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Tempe Cole and Rotary Parks

Submitted by: Olsson Associates

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: The Zanjero's Line

Submitted by: The Phoenix Office of Cultural Affairs

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Indian Bend Road Improvements

Submitted by: City of Scottsdale

Name of Entry: trueNorth

Submitted by: Mark Ryan Studio and City of Tempe

**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands

Submitted by: Archer Western Contractors

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: City of Mesa Northwest Water Reclamation Plant

Submitted by: City of Mesa Water Resources Department

Name of Entry: Maricopa Solar, LLC

Submitted by: City of Peoria

**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Mine Water Treatment & Recovery System

Submitted by: Resolution Copper Mining

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Thermo Fluids, Inc.

Submitted by: Olson Communications, Inc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: LandscapewithStyle.com

Submitted by: Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Dust Abatement Handbook and Field Guide

Submitted by: Maricopa County Air Quality Department

Name of Entry: Living Green Workshop Series: Earth-Friendly Advice for Home & Garden

Submitted by: City of Mesa

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: GreenStreet: Environmental Education

Submitted by: GreenStreet

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: APS's Qualified Solar Installer Program

Submitted by: APS

Name of Entry: The Renewables, the World's Most Sustainable Superheroes

Submitted by: APS

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Educators, Students & Non-Profits**

**CRESCORDIA**

Name of Entry: Global Climate Change in the Southwest: An Academy for Educators

Submitted by: The Center for Teacher Success

**AWARDS OF MERIT**

Name of Entry: Solarville in the APS Solar Gallery at Arizona Science Center

Submitted by: Arizona Science Center

Name of Entry: Water's Changing Journey at Audubon Arizona

Submitted by: Quarles & Brady, LLP

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – The SRP Award**

**CRESCORDIA**

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix Sonoran Preserve

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

**AWARD OF MERIT**

Name of Entry: Keep Phoenix Beautiful

Submitted by: APS

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**CRESCORDIA**

Name of Entry: Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center

Submitted by: Weddle Gilmore Black Rock Studio

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