

WELLSPRING NEWS

July 2011

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente (FOAC), Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Dear Friends:

Let's hope for a good monsoon, we could certainly use the rain. The water flow at Agua Caliente is still way down due to a lack of moisture and decreased water table. Pima County works hard to keep the main pond full, but we won't see any water in ponds two or three unless we get some good moisture (they depend on overflow from the main pond).

We have been busy this winter and spring.

As you will see later in the newsletter, we've purchased some great items for Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR). We've also committed your generous donations and membership funds to support NRPR next year with help for the Lecture Series and Earth Day plus other needed items for the park. Stay tuned to the website (I added a section for pictures and details on the various items and contributions). We'll also

announce these plus other late breaking news on our Facebook page, so follow us closely to keep abreast of any significant news.

Our resident Great Horned Owls are doing well and had two chicks this year.



It's been great fun watching them grow up.

Interested in helping promote and sustain this wonderful oasis in Tucson's backyard? We still have

openings on the FOAC Board of Directors. Although we are a small working board, we are not too busy and would really appreciate your help and new ideas. You can also attend one of our board meetings if you want to take a closer look before deciding or just want to find out more about what we are doing to support Agua Caliente Park. We'd love to have you as an active participant to help shape the future of Agua Caliente Park!

Jim Knoll

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Although we have not held any special fundraising events this year, the committee has been hard at work writing grants to private foundations appealing for funds to enable us to enhance and improve the park. The dual-base binocular donated by the Martha R. Neff Foundation was dedicated by the Friends of Agua Caliente on March 19, 2011. It is a popular



site for children and adults to view the flora and fauna in the pond, as well as the Catalina Mountains in the distance. The

binocular is located on the south end of the main pond.

The Friends also received a grant from Freeport-McMoRan Foundation for four 8 foot picnic tables to enhance the enjoyment of park patrons and the youth environmental education programs. Thousands of youth attend the programs annually. Learning activities are accomplished using the picnic tables.



We are awaiting responses from other foundations regarding our requests for a large bicycle rack next to the public restrooms for our many

cycling visitors, forged steel sign bases for various signs throughout the park, and more benches for the enjoyment of our many visitors. We will also support NRPR Lecture Series and Earth Day with needed funds to support speakers and volunteers. Any additional ideas for grants or FOAC support are appreciated.

Your membership in Friends of Agua Caliente also enables us to purchase other items that the county cannot in these tough economic times. You can also remember Agua Caliente Park by making a donation to FOAC or through your estate planning. We are grateful for any support you may be able to provide!

Lynda Nash

From the Bunkhouse: Arrival at Agua Caliente Ranch

We arrived at the Agua Caliente Ranch on August 25, 1951 with all our belongings. It took some time to get everything settled in the house. My folk's bedroom was at what now is the east end of the Art Gallery. My sister's room was at the west end of the gallery. There was a bathroom and sitting room between the two bedrooms. My brother and I slept in the old adobe building, just east of the main house. It was built sometime in the late 1870's or early 1880's. You can see the structure in pictures on signs in front of the house or in the house itself. We enjoyed the monsoon and sat every evening on the "lake side" of the house (what is now the Audubon store). We listened to the creatures of the night, particularly the bull frogs and could even identify the various ones by their calls. We gave them names, such as Chicago, New York, Boston.

We were enrolled in school. I went to the Tanque Verde School, which had just been enlarged to four rooms (from two). We had 40

-45 students in grades one through eight (I was in seventh). The school was absorbed into the Lou Sorenson Center, which is now gone to make room for the Tanque Verde High School.

In mid October, my parents flew back to Fond du Lac to tie up loose ends. One night, my brother & sisters were all out doing things. I stayed at the house with Ruth (an invalid Aunt's housekeeper). When my Aunt died, my parents felt they owed Ruth a job as she had taken care of my Aunt for many years, so they brought her with us to Tucson. Ruth & I left about 6 PM to drive to Swan Drugs, located where Ambassador Diamond Jewelers is now at the corner of Speedway & Swan. The only things east of Swan were the Redwood Gay 90's Restaurant & the Original Casa Molina's. On our way home traveling north on Soldiers Trail, when we reached what is now the intersection of Ft. Lowell & Soldiers Trail, we could see smoke coming from the Ranch. We hurried home and found the old adobe building (where my

brother and I lived) was on fire. There were many neighbors there, fighting the fire with a fire hose we had on the property. The caretaker that my Dad had hired had gone into our room to be with his wife and dropped a cigarette. By the time the neighbors arrived, they found him with a garden hose trying to put out the fire (the roof had already caved in). Thanks to the quick action of our neighbors, the main house was spared. If it had not been for them, we would have lost everything. As it was, my brother and I lost all we had except the clothes on our back. We lost all our childhood mementos. We built the edition that is now the caretaker's quarters at the east end of the house and my folks took one room and my brother & I the other. This was our introduction to Tucson and the welcome from our neighbors. While the loss of our little Adobe house was sad, the friends we made were priceless.

Pete Filiatrault
"The ghost of Agua Caliente"

Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

Check the FOAC web site (Park Events) for up-to-date events / times: <http://FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org>

Wake Up with The Birds

7:30 —9:00 am (Every Thursday)
(check website for updated times)

Nature Walks/other events

Outdoor Family: Prickly Pear

Harvest — Saturday Aug 27, 9-11:30
(reservations required)

Ranch House Gallery:

Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art (July 22—August 17)

The Bees and Their Contemporaries: Invertebrates of Southwest Arizona (August 19—September 14)

To volunteer at Agua Caliente Park with Pima County NRPR, call (520) 615-7855.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in () below the name

Jim Knoll, President (Newsletter, Website, Membership)	jimknoll@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Chuck Ford, Vice President (Park Liaison)	chuckford@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Peggy Denny, Treasurer	peggydenny@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Maura Brackett, Secretary	maurabackett@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Terry Bonbrake	terrybonbrake@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Pete Filiatrault	petefiliatrault@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Judy Gray (Donors Wall/Walk)	judygray@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Lynda Nash (Fundraising)	lyndanash@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Joyce Roughton	joyceroughton@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Sandy Sarah	sandysarah@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Paula Stoner (Historian)	paulastoner@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Richard Watts (Emeritus)	

Volunteer Training Class

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers who are interested in training to assist with education and interpretive programs at Agua Caliente Park. The greatest need at this time is for volunteers to assist in three distinct areas: Assistance with lessons for school groups

visiting the park; leading tours of the Ranch House, or to serve as a roaming greeter on the park grounds. Prospective volunteers may choose to work in any one of these areas or more than one area. The Agua Caliente Park volunteer training class is scheduled for November 8, 9, 10, and 17, 9 AM to

noon. The training sessions will include information about the natural and cultural history of the Park as well as specific training for each of the volunteer jobs. For more information, contact Meg Quinn at (520) 615-7855 or eeducation@pima.gov (email).

New Exhibit Cases

Stop by the Ranch House at Agua Caliente Park to see the new exhibit cases and artifacts on loan from the Arizona State Museum. Pima County Parklands Foundation received a generous donation from the family and friends of Ellen Susan Pinna for custom exhibit cases to display artifacts collected during the archeological excavations of the whiptail site in the late 1960's and early 1970's and other representative artifacts on loan



from the Arizona State Museum. In mid-June, the custom built cases arrived and we received a few artifacts from the nearby whiptail site.

Interpretive signage and additional artifacts will be placed in the exhibit alcove to tell the story of people that lived in the area in the thirteenth century and to build on the stories of more recent inhabitants of Agua Caliente Park.

Wendy Burroughs
NRPR EE Program Manager

Stream Flow Rate

The current underground flow rate feeding the stream and ponds is less than 1 gallon per minute, causing an intermittent flow of water. Let's hope for a good Monsoon.

We would sure like to send you this newsletter electronically and save FOAC postage (we have to use 1st class since under 200). The benefit to you is you get it quickly and in color. If you would like to get it via email, please let me know at

FOAC@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org. I will not release your email address to other agencies and you will not get spammed by me. We only send the newsletter twice per year.

Also, there is a wealth of information about FOAC (to include board meeting date), Park events, and other information on the website (see bottom of page for address). Bookmark and visit it often.

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

Come join us to help preserve our wonderful Park. As birders, or those who like to picnic, or stroll the grounds, you know the significance of this "Oasis in the Desert."

Your time, talents, and donations will be the contributions that make the difference at this historic time in the life of our organization and the Park. We can use your talent as a Board Member, Committee member, or to just help out. If you can't spare the time to volunteer, how about at least joining FOAC to help us protect what we all treasure so dearly?

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation, therefore all donations are tax

-deductible. Membership is based on the following schedule:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Organization	\$50

Please send Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email along with Check to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005 or contact Jim Knoll at jimknoll@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org for more information.

Welcome to our new members and thank you to our renewing members & donors.

Your dedication to the Park and FOAC is greatly appreciated. We

hope you will choose to become involved in the Friends of Agua Caliente and Agua Caliente Park. If there is anything we can do, let us know. We can't do what we do without a great membership and donors!

2010-11 membership roster:

Family:	86
Individual:	44
Organization:	1

Total: 131

We will be kicking off our 2011-12 membership and donation drive in October, 2011 and we hope you will consider (and continue) your generous support to preserve and protect this wonderful Oasis!! Check the website for details

Jim Knoll

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.
P.O. Box 32005
Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

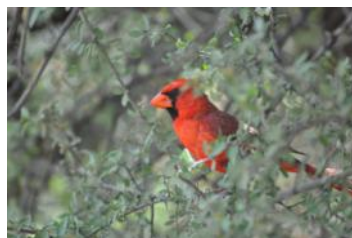
Tucson Audubon Society nature shop has celebrated its 6th year at Agua Caliente Park. The little shop is a great retail store for nature oriented materials but also a wonderful outreach in the community to spread the word about our activities and local environmental concerns. In addition, we have a growing database on all things “birdy”. Next time you visit, ask to see our “bird book” which will give you a better understanding of the species and numbers of birds that have visited the park. We’ve not experienced the fires that have plagued other Arizona areas this season, but we might be experiencing some new bird species that have been driven from their usual haunts. Be on the lookout for new visitors, and please add the early morning (7:30 AM) Wake up with the Birds walk every Thursday (check FOAC website for updated times).

Tucson Audubon is looking forward to its first Bird and Wildlife Festival celebration August 17—21 2011. Stop in at

the shop for a flyer on details of the festival or check our webpage at: www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival to sign up for field trips and lectures. We will be located at the Riverpark Inn, downtown Tucson for all activities with special Saturday family programs.

Becky Aparicio, Nature Shop Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Shop Hours (July, August, September)
Thursday Only
9:00 am – 3:30 pm
(520) 760-7881



Northern Cardinal

Photo by
Susan Knoll

Facebook

FOAC is on Facebook. Follow us to stay abreast on late breaking and current events. To find FOAC, search “Friends of Agua Caliente Tucson” within Facebook or access us from our FOAC website.

Postcards



FOAC sells Agua Caliente Postcards (as a fundraiser) at the Audubon Shop in the Ranch House. We appreciate your support of the Friends of Agua Caliente..