

WELLSPRING NEWS

April 2007

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Another Spring is upon us. I guess we should be thankful we have this wonderful "Oasis" to enjoy and cool us down.

Our third annual "Pancakes in the Park" breakfast will be held on April 28 featuring the Pueblo High School Mariachi Band with 16 members along with many other great entertainers throughout the morning. See the update below for all the details. Please come out and enjoy the Park and support FOAC!!

There are also many on-going events at the Park that are worth attending or getting involved with. The Natural Resources Parks & Recreation folks are sponsoring a monthly Cultural/Historic Speaker Series in the Rose Cottage. The next one is "Hints of the Past" on April 15th from 1-2 PM. The May 20 event is "Ancient Seeds for Modern Needs: The Work of Native Seeds/Research". Hope to see you there.

Visitors to the Ranch House continue to increase as more and more people come to enjoy the Park. If you haven't been here lately, you don't know what you are missing.

Membership in FOAC is vitally important to sustaining Agua Caliente Park and an important source for Docents and volunteers. Come join us and watch the Park grow into a great place to spend some relaxing time.

Dick Watts



Third Annual Pancakes in the Park, Saturday April 28 7:30-10:30 AM at Agua Caliente Park

It's Springtime at the Park again and that means PANCAKES!!! Please come join us....or better yet, we need lots of volunteer help to pull off this major fundraiser. To help, please call Jim Hilkemeyer (247-9776) or email (hilkyway49@msn.com). We really need your help and it is always great fun.

Rural Metro Fire Department will provide the food and have a fire truck or two as well as the Edith House (a fun aid for children to learn how to safely evacu-

ate a burning house). We'll also have great entertainment including Cowboy Poet Ken Whitecotton, the Branded Duo, the Pueblo High School Mariachi Band, activity stations with emphasis on Arizona history, ranch life, and local wildlife, and several puppet shows. There will also be fantastic door and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets are our best opportunity to raise the needed funds to support the Bridge Project as well as the general activities within the Park (signage, benches, maintenance). You can make a dif-

ference by selling raffle tickets in advance or help getting donations from local businesses and individuals. Call or email Jim for breakfast or raffle tickets to sell or donation help.

Breakfast tickets will be: Adults \$6, Seniors (over 60) \$5, and Children (ages 3-12) \$3.



From the Bunkhouse: Our New Home

When we first moved to the Agua Caliente Ranch, no one had lived there on a permanent basis for several years. As a result, we had all sorts of abundant wildlife in our yard every night, including mountain lions, bobcats, javelina, and the most bothersome of all, coyotes. Consequently, we kept a loaded shotgun in the entry way. When the Coyotes got too close to the house or were making too much racket, we would fire the shotgun into the air to scare them off.

The bridge you now use to walk over the stream by the spring was our driveway. You drove across the bridge and up to the house or went around the patio of the house to the bunkhouse, shops, barns, and corrals. Between what is now Roger Road and the little stream was a very dense Mesquite grove....so dense that you could not even see through it. One night the coyotes

were coming into the yard making a lot of racket. Our dogs got loose and chased them back into the Mesquite thicket. My dad heard the dogs barking and the coyotes growling and thought that his dogs were being torn apart. He took off running down the driveway, across the little bridge and plunged into the Mesquite thicket to save his dogs. He had to get down on his hands and knees to crawl through the Mesquites. He finally found a place where he could stand up. The dogs and coyotes were still barking. He shined his flashlight around and at first saw nothing. Then all of a sudden, he saw an animal running toward him. The animal was being chased by the dogs. The animal saw him and jumped up into his arms to get away from the dogs. My Dad looked and discovered he had a bobcat in his arms. He let out a scream and the bobcat looked at my Dad

and jumped down and ran off as fast as he could. My Mother, hearing the scream from my Dad, grabbed the shotgun and fired into the air. Suddenly there was dead silence. My Mother kept yelling "Art", but got no reply. The dogs came back to the front of the house, but still no "Art". About 10 minutes later, my Mother saw my Father walking up the driveway...scratched and disheveled. He was white as a sheet and couldn't but barely whisper he was so scared. By the time us kids got home, he had calmed down and we all had a good laugh over his encounter with the bobcat. We didn't know who was more scared, the bobcat or my Dad. I don't think my Dad thought it was as funny as the rest of us, but he took all the kidding good naturedly.

*Pete Filiatrault
The Ghost of Agua Caliente*

FOAC Website

The FOAC website is a great source of current information. The address is:

http://www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente/

The site is kept updated with current

Park activities, photos of the Park, and other interesting information/links. The site also includes archived copies of the Wellspring News, the FOAC Bylaws (including standing committees) and Goals, and procedures to make a donation, join FOAC, send comments.

Please bookmark the site and visit it often.....and tell your friends about it. Let me know if you have suggestions for improvement.

Jim Knoll

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in () below the name

| | | |
|--|----------|-----------------------|
| Richard Watts, President (Park Liaison) | 529-4637 | |
| Chuck Ford, Vice President (Park Liaison) | 748-7612 | cfordjr@juno.com |
| Francie Hilkemeyer, Secretary | 247-9776 | fhilk@msn.com |
| Peter Filiatrault, Treasurer | 577-8202 | azghost@comcast.net |
| Sally Danielson (Fundraising) | 749-2184 | sawynd@aol.com |
| Mike Deal (Membership/Volunteer) | 749-1984 | miguelitodeal@aol.com |
| Mary Jane Dyson | 749-5245 | afroirish@msn.com |
| Judy Gray | 749-1159 | foac@earthlink.net |
| Jim Knoll (Newsletter, Website) | 760-7609 | foac@earthlink.net |
| Sandy Sarah (Nominating) | 885-7466 | sjsarah@earthlink.net |
| Bud Seaman (Donors Wall/Walk) | 299-3175 | bbseaman@juno.com |
| Jim Hilkemeyer (non-board member) | 247-9776 | |
| Paula Stoner (non-board member) | 591-0764 | pjluvshky@excite.com |

Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

Check the FOAC web site for up-to-date events and times:
www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente

Wake Up with The Birds (Every Tues)

Nature Walks (Every Sat)

Fish Zoo..Exotics & Natives

(Sat Apr 7, 9 am)

Family Birding (Sat Apr 14, 8 am)

Historic Speaker Series — Sun 1 pm

Hints of the Past (Apr 15)

Ancient Seeds for Modern Needs (May 20)

**Other on-going Activities on website
Ranch House Gallery:**

March 29-May 10: Digital Fusion

To volunteer at Agua Caliente Park with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, call 877-6112.

Welcome New Board Members

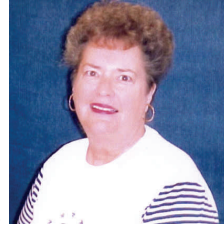
The Friends of Agua Caliente would like to welcome our newest members of the Board of Directors.

Mary Jane Dyson was nominated to fill a three-year term expiring in 2010. "Thank you for electing me to the board. I will support the activities the board is involved in and I will work to protect and preserve the Park. My family and I have resided in the Tanque Verde area since 1978. My husband, Leroy, and I have two married daughters and three grandsons. I taught in four middle schools in TUSD before retiring in 2003. Prior to living in Arizona, I grew up in Pennsylvania and lived in New York." Welcome Mary Jane!!



Our second new member to the Board is Judy Gray. She was nominated to fill an unexpired two-year term ending in 2009.

"I was born in Mansfield, Ohio and raised in Sandusky, Ohio. I attended Ohio University, moved to Tucson in 1960, and married James Gray. We have one son. I'm an active member of the Saguaro Girl Scout Council and a member of the Lake Erie Council for 53 years. I am also an active member of the Sabino Canyon Naturalist program for the past 19 years, have served on the Reid Park Zoo Board from 1990 to 1996, and a member of the Bat Conservation International and International Wildlife Conservation. My husband and I own a business....James Gray Plumbing and Pipeline Co, started over 40 years ago. Our hobbies include Rock and Minerals, Vintage Car Club, traveling, photography, and painting. I love the state of Arizona, from the desert to the mountains."



Letter from Sally Hazard Boynton

Friends of Agua Caliente -

I was recently out at our old ranch and was overwhelmed at all you have done to preserve the beauty of the grounds — the lakes and the amazing results of the ranch house.

I now feel peaceful inside to see it come alive again and open to the public for picnicking, hiking, and especially watching those gorgeous ducks!

Enclosed is a small check to be applied to rebuilding the bridge. A few suggestions —

Paint the pink house white. When the bridge is completed and island functioning again, grass would be nice instead of the clay.

My father was Gibson de Kalb Hazard [purchased the property in 1935 and operated it as a working ranch while also growing fruit & alfalfa] — my brother and I had an upbringing I wish more children could have. There are so many needy people and it is really nice to see all these families enjoy themselves.

Sally Hazard Boynton

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

We are looking for "A few good men and women" who want to help maintain Agua Caliente Park as a very special place. As birders, or those who like to picnic, or stroll the grounds, you know the significance of this "Oasis in the Desert."

Join us and volunteer to plant flowers, act as Docents, sponsor events, raise funds, clean buildings, weed and trim, and generally have a great time with fellow park lovers. Your time, talents, and donations will be the contributions that make the difference at this historic time in the life of our or-

ganization and the Park. 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) Corporation, therefore all donations are tax-deductible. Dues are based on the following schedule:

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|--------------|------|
| Student | \$10 |
| Individual | \$15 |
| Family | \$25 |
| Organization | \$50 |

Please send Name, Address, and Phone Number along with Check to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005 or contact Mike Deal, Membership

Chairman, at 749-1984 for more information.

Welcome to our newest members: Ms. Sally Boynton, Mr/Mrs Gordon Brown, Mr/Mrs Carter, Ms. Lorne Key, Mr/Mrs Lou Macijeski, Ms. Carolyn Nash & Family, Ms Lois Safran & Family, and Mr/Mrs Andrew Smith.

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Current membership roster: | |
| Family Memberships: | 23 |
| Individual Memberships: | 6 |
| Total Memberships: | 29 |
| Voting Members: | 52 |

Mike Deal

FOAC

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

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

The sun has begun baking away our winter cold and Agua Caliente Park is leafing out with new green shoots and wildflowers peeping up. For Tucson Audubon Nature Shop, it has been a very productive season. New merchandise is introduced weekly and our mission of “Nurturing Nature for the Future” is always in our minds eye. The great working relationship with Pima County Parks and Recreation and Friends of Agua Caliente is especially noticeable on Saturday’s where we all gather to showcase the Ranch House, Nature Shop and the Volunteer efforts in sharing the Park’s history. The Nature Shop is now open the first and third Sunday’s each month.

I hope you all have an opportunity to meet Tucson Audubon’s new Executive Director, Paul Green, who first visited the Park while a candidate for his new position.

The entire crew at the Nature Shop is looking forward to the Pancake Breakfast in April as well as participating in the annual birdathon fundraiser between April 13 and May 6, where we will include the Park in our bird count. My thanks to: All of you who visit regularly and patronize the shop; the Ranch House volunteers for their charm and wit; and the staff of Pima County who have been so encouraging. This all makes my job an easy one.

Becky Aparicio
Manager Tucson Audubon Nature Shop
Agua Caliente Park

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 9:30 am—3:30 pm; 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Please call 760-7881 with any questions or for our summer hours.

The Friends of Agua Caliente also have some items for sale in the Audubon Shop to include postcards with pictures of the Park. Please stop by and check out the great selection of gifts and merchandise.



Rose Cottage