

WELLSPRING NEWS

April 2008

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Friends of Agua Caliente,

I am honored to be your new Board President. I'd like to thank Dick Watts for all he has accomplished as the previous President and Francie Hilkemeyer for her great work as Secretary. Sally Danielson stepped in to take on the Secretary role on a temporary basis until we can select a permanent Secretary. Chuck Ford remains as Vice President and Pete Filiatrault remains as Treasurer.

We Have numerous activities taking place within FOAC. The Pancake Breakfast is just around the corner, the bridge to the island project continues, plenty of fundraising activities, and opportunities to volunteer at the Park. We could sure use some help from the membership and interested residents. It's a great way to provide support back to the community. Please contact any Board Member.

Jim Knoll

New Island Bridge Update



Jeff Kramer, the new Pima County Manager for the Bridge Project recently provided the Board an update for replacement of the Island bridge. Due to budget issues, the project has been delayed. The County hopes to have these issues re-

solved soon.

The new bridge will be ADA compliant and conform to environmental and historical preservation requirements. The new bridge will be located just south of the current bridge. It will be installed in stages, taking about two months to complete. Extreme care will be exercised to ensure no contamination occurs to the pond or surrounding landscape. Jeff will be at the Pancakes in the Park on April 26th to discuss any aspects of the bridge and answer questions. We'll also post any updates on the FOAC website.

Annual "Pancakes in the Park" Saturday April 26th, 2008 from 7:30–10:30 am

Come out and join us for the 4th annual "Pancakes in the Park", co-sponsored with Rural Metro Fire Department. Breakfast tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors over 60, and \$3 for children 3-12. Raffle tickets will be sold prior to and at the event along with door prizes at the Park. The main Raffle this year will be a weekend at a Kino Bay condominium in Mexico. All proceeds will be used to supply new interpretive signs, benches, and other amenities for the Park.

The breakfast will be accompanied by a kaleidoscope of family fun and entertainment. Cowboy Poet Ken Whitecotton; the Branded Duo; and the Pueblo High School Mariachi Band will perform while activity stations with emphasis on Arizona history, ranch life, and local wildlife along with two puppet shows will be scattered throughout the ranch yard. In the ranch house, there will be an art exhibit with local artists and children of all ages will be invited to explore the Rural Metro fire equipment.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the Park in a unique setting. For more information, see the included flyer, visit the FOAC website or contact Sally Danielson at 749-2184. This can be a good fundraising event for FOAC, but we need your help selling raffle tickets, volunteering at the event, and spreading the word to friends and family to come out and have some fun. Feel free to make copies of the enclosed flyer and display it as appropriate. We hope to see you on April 26th at Agua Caliente Park.

From the Bunkhouse:

Another year has gone by. It has now been nearly 15 years since I read in the paper that Pima County was going to tear down all the historic buildings on the Agua Caliente Ranch. The date was October, 1993. I wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them for a 90-day extension to allow me to form a non-profit Corporation to save the buildings before they made their final decision to tear them down. Along with Jorga Riggenschach, we went to the Board of Supervisors meeting to fight to save the buildings. There we met Sandy Sarah and Linda Wood. Together we formed the Friends of Agua Caliente and continued the fight to save the buildings. We went to many Board meetings and built up community support. Then, The Friends of Agua Caliente along with our supporters continued attending every Board meeting until

they finally agreed to save the buildings you see today. It was a long battle, but we had won and saved these historic buildings. In late 1999, the County announced that they would start reconstruction of the buildings. They hoped to begin construction in early 2000. It took another three plus years before the buildings were completed.

In early 2002, we learned that the Pima County Flood Control District asked the Corps of Engineers to turn the Ranch into wetlands and introduce many endangered species to the Park. There was no evidence that any of these species ever existed here. They intended to take out all the lakes except the one in front of the Bunkhouse. Then they wanted to get rid of all the non-native fish and Bull Frogs. This battle lasted for over two years, but thanks to the support of our members, the Tanque Verde Valley residents and many

other people from all over Pima County, we finally stopped the Corps of Engineers.

That is a little history of the formation of The Friends of Agua Caliente and some of the many battles we fought over the years to save the Park.

Our next challenges are to have the old bridge to the island rebuilt and to get Agua Caliente Park on the National Historic Register.

Now that we are nearing 100 members, we have more people to help us continue to guard and nurture Agua Caliente Park. I encourage you to actively join us in the protection of this beautiful natural resource.

*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

Jim Knoll, President (Newsletter, Website)	760-7609	foac@earthlink.net
Chuck Ford, Vice President (Park Liaison)	748-7612	cfordjr@juno.com
Sally Danielson, Secretary (Fundraising)	749-2184	sawynd@aol.com
Peter Filiatrault, Treasurer	577-8202	azghost@comcast.net
Mike Deal (Membership/Volunteer)	749-1984	miguelitodeal@aol.com
Donna Dehaan	760-1331	donnadehaan@msn.com
Mary Jane Dyson	749-5245	afroirish@msn.com
Judy Gray	749-1159	
Francie Hilkemeyer	247-9776	fhilk@msn.com
Sandy Sarah	885-7466	sandyjsarah@yahoo.com
Bud Seaman (Donors Wall/Walk)	299-3175	bbseaman@juno.com
Paula Stoner (Historian)	591-0764	pjluvshky@excite.com
Richard Watts (Park Liaison)	529-4637	

Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

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

Wake Up with The Birds (Every Tues)
Nature Journaling: Apr 5

Bats: Apr 6

Geology Legacy Tour: Apr 11

Discovering Nature's Treasures: Apr 12

History of Tanque Verde Valley: Apr 13

Kids Club; Leapin' Lizards: Apr 19

Civilian Conservation Corps: Apr 20

Desert Plan Uses: Apr 24 (\$)

Pancakes in the Park: Apr 26 (\$)

Ranch House Gallery: Check website for current Artists

To volunteer at Agua Caliente Park with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, call (520) 615-7855.

National Registration Nomination Update

Agua Caliente was one of four ranches nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The Agua Caliente nomination was completed in October 2003 and submitted by Pima County with the other three nominations to the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. All the nominations were reviewed and subsequently accepted by the Arizona SHPO and the Arizona Historic Sites Review Committee. The nominations were then forwarded to the Keeper of the Register in Washington, D.C. for inclusion in the National Register. Unexpectedly, all four nominations were returned by the Keeper requesting major changes.

Following meetings with the Arizona SHPO and a representative from the National Park Service in 2006, a list of proposed changes was developed.

Pima County resubmitted one of the ranch nominations (Canoa Ranch — the most complex) as a test to see if the different approach

was successful. When it was successfully accepted in 2007, steps were implemented to resubmit the remaining three ranch nominations, including Agua Caliente.

Statistical Research, Inc (SRI) of Tucson was chosen to re-write the Agua Caliente nomination, a process that could take up to 12 months before resubmitting the nominations to the Arizona SHPO. SRI began work in February 2008. During the coming months, SRI will visit the Park, gather additional information & photographs for the revised nomination. We are confident the revised nomination will be successful and Agua Caliente Park will be soon be added to the National Register of Historic Places and preserved for future generations.

We will keep you updated as we progress toward Registration.

Simon Herbert
Program Coordinator
Pima County Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Office

“Pancakes in the Park” Volunteers Needed

Help make the Pancake Breakfast happen and support your local Park. Volunteer to work on “Pancakes in the Park” being held Saturday, April 26 from 7:30—10:30 am. All of the sub-committees could use your time and talents. Event Day Staging and Pancakes, Activity, Public Relations and Advertising, Ticket Production, Raffle/Door Prizes Solicitation and Sales, Event Day Crowd Control, and Clean-up. This is a great way to not only support and show off the Park, but meet new and interesting people. **Contact Sally Danielson, Event Chairman, SAWynD@aol.com or (520) 749-2184.**



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.”

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. 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:

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: Ruth & Ed Panelley, Paul Winick & Ronda Lustman, Marie Hirsch, Edward Berkeley & Dorrell-Jo MacWhinnie, Albert Bisbee, John Ryer & Julie Scott, Mr & Mrs Tom

Rotkis, Saul Stultz, Nancee Wood, Robin Bleecker, Jane Conway, Carolyn Knott, Clara Czerny, and Lois Wilde.

We appreciate all the members that have renewed their membership for another year.....We can't do what we do without a great membership! Please join us in actively helping preserve and nurture our “Oasis in the Desert”

2008 membership roster to date:

Family Memberships:	40
Individual Memberships:	15
Total Memberships:	55
Voting Members:	96

Mike Deal

FOAC

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

Nonprofit
Organization
US POSTAGE
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Tucson, AZ
Permit No 370

**PANCAKES IN THE PARK
BREAKFAST
Sat Apr 26, 7:30—10:30**

Mailing Label

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

As I bask in the mid 80 degree weather here at the Park, I chortle to myself thinking of the February 15th snow that fell not too long ago. It was truly inspiring, but it's darn nice now. Even with cold, windy, and wet days, the park is a joy to visit. As a representative of Tucson Audubon Society, I'm most interested in the on-going bird populations and habitat and working here is a wonderful venue to make these observations and share them with citizens and visitors. The Nature Shop, conceived five years ago and celebrating three years, has reached many milestones and is a healthy reflection of the Agua Caliente Park philosophy as a whole and the vision for Tucson Audubon Society in improving the quality of the environment by providing education, conservation, and recreation programs. Our common interest in birding and natural history links us with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Rec-

reation and the Friends of Agua Caliente in many ways. Did you know that our partnership extends to classes on birding and environmental resource management? Were you aware that Agua Caliente Park is a center for Important Bird Area data instruction? As well, did you realize that a major count for birds was done at the Park in February for the Great Backyard Bird Count? All this and the fact that many of our shop volunteers completed the Pima County volunteer training program to become great Ranch House and County natural history guides as well!

Stop in for our monthly Vermillion-Flycatcher Newsletter and learn more about Tucson Audubon, our work in the field for habitat restoration, our family and adult education programs and our citizen science opportunities for data collections. Not least of all, stop in to

shop for great natural history books, binoculars, gifts, and children's educational literature.

Upcoming events:

Institute of Desert Ecology (Apr 16-20). Space is still available for this fully integrated desert experience. Call Matt Brooks (622-2230) for details

9th annual Ironwood Festival, May 10th at TAS Mason Center (Thornsdale and Hardy). Free for all.

Becky Aparicio
Manager Tucson Audubon Nature Shop
Agua Caliente Park

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 9:30 am—3:30 pm. Please call 760-7881 with any questions or clarification of our operating hours.