

WELLSPRING NEWS

February 2005

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. was held on January 24th, 2005 and a slate of officers was presented to the Board of Directors and elected for the year 2005. The new officers are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

This Annual Meeting also elected Jim Knoll and Charles (Chuck) Ford to serve on the Board of Directors, as provided in the Bylaws. Jim is currently serving as editor of the Friends' newsletter

"Wellspring News", and "Chuck" has assisted in organizing a Pancake Breakfast outing scheduled for Sat April 16th.

The recently restored ranch house, which presents a 1920's look, is a must see place for our friends to enjoy the way the interior looks. You will have an opportunity to have Joanne Triplett answer your questions and give you background of the ranch and park area. The Visitor Center is open 9:00 to 12:00 and

1:00 to 4:00 Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

The ranch house has a rotating art show by Tucson area artists, changing every four weeks. It also features a Tucson Audubon Society gift shop for those people interested in bird watching.

Pima County Natural Resources Parks Program Coordinator for Agua Caliente Park is located in the ranch house Visitor Center and will be able to answer any questions

that may arise.

Fundraisers are the major source of revenue by the Friends group to assist the Park in meeting the financial requirements for projects such as the bridge construction, so we encourage our members to support them and we thank those who have.

I look forward to serving as FOAC President and hope you will take the time to get involved in the preservation of Agua Caliente Park.

Dick Watts

Annual Meeting held Jan 24th

The annual membership meeting was held Jan 24, 2005 in the Bunkhouse of Agua Caliente Park. New officers to the Board of Directors were approved.

The Friends offer a **SPECIAL THANKS** to out-going President Sandy Sarah. Sandy has worked diligently throughout her tenure to

advance the goals of FOAC and preserve and maintain Agua Caliente Park. Sandy will remain as a member of the Board of Directors. Thanks Sandy!!

2005 officers:

Dick Watts.....President

Sally Danielson...Vice President

Audrey Watts.....Secretary

Pete Filiatrault....Treasurer

Congratulations and we look

forward to a successful 2005!!

The Board of Directors was also increased from 9 to 11 and Jim Knoll and Chuck Ford were added to the Board.

The various committees reviewed on-going projects, some of which will be highlighted here. The **Nominations Com-**

mittee, in addition to recommending the new Officers, also recommended minor changes to the Bylaws. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Treasurer's Report. Total Cash and other assets: \$7,282 (includes *(continued on page 3)*)

From the Bunkhouse: A Kiss Before Dying *by Pete Filiatrault*

In 1956, my parents were approached and received a call from officials from MGM about the possibility of using Agua Caliente Ranch as a site for their new Movie, "A Kiss Before Dying", Starring Robert Wagner, Jeffery Hunter, Virginia Leith, and Joanne Woodward.

They came out to our home and we had Robert Wagner, Jeffery Hunter, and Virginia Leith sitting in our living room, along with officials from MGM. I got to meet them all, and they were very nice. In the end, they did not use Agua Caliente as a filming location, however, in a scene where Robert

Wagner & Virginia Leith were riding horses, they were our horses. In the movie, Robert Wagner pushed Virginia Leith off the top of the old Valley National Bank Building downtown, which is now the Bank One building.

Locations used were the Broadway Village Shopping Center on the southwest corner of Broadway & Country Club, across from Bank One, which was then the Valley National Bank, Tucson's first branch bank. This was one of Tucson's first shopping centers out from the center of town. Other scenes were filmed at the University of Arizona, the old

El Dorado Guest Ranch, at the corner of Speedway & Wilmot, in behind the new DM Federal Credit Union office. "Charles" Restaurant was in what used to be the lobby for the El Dorado Guest Ranch. Now the Mountain Oyster Club occupies the area that used to be the old El Dorado Lobby. What is now Dorado Country Club & Estates was part of the old El Dorado Guest Ranch. Also, some scenes were shot down by the Duval open pit Copper Mine near Sahurita. "A Kiss Before Dying" was released in June 1956.

Upcoming Pima County Events at Agua Caliente Park

Interested in getting more involved with events at the Park or with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation? Here is your chance to expand your horizons and have fun at the same time!!

Arizona History Days took place at the Park on Feb 19th for families and the general public and Feb 22 for some 4th grade students. An email was sent to members we have on file announcing this event since it happened before the release of this newsletter. The event was a great success and allowed many patrons to experience the Park up

close and personal.

Wake Up with the Birds. An early morning bird walk with a Tucson Audubon Society volunteer naturalist. This activity is especially for beginning birders. The walks are scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Walks start at 9 a.m. Starting in May, the walks will begin at 7:45 a.m. Binoculars will be provided.

Plants up Close. A nature walk focused on plants of Agua Caliente Park by a park volunteer naturalist. These walks are on the first Sunday of the month and start at 11 a.m.

Birds and Critters at the Park. This activity allows you to observe and learn about aquatic birds and other animals in the park using a spotting scope and binoculars. This event is usually scheduled 1-2 times per month on a weekend afternoon. The activity varies so check the bulletin board in the Park for scheduled dates and times.

Other volunteer-led activities at the park are in the planning stage. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, contact Steve Russell at 877-6112.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Richard Watts, President	529-4637	
Sally Danielson, Vice President	749-2184	sawynd@aol.com
Audrey Watts, Secretary	529-4637	
Peter Filiatrault, Treasurer	577-8202	azghost@comcast.net
Carolyn Classen	327-7609	pololu@hotmail.com
Mike Deal	749-1984	miguelitodeal@aol.com
Chuck Ford	748-7612	
Jim Hilkemeyer	247-9776	jim@hilkyway.com
Jim Knoll	760-7609	jsknoll@earthlink.net
Sandy Sarah	885-7466	sjsarah@earthlink.net
Bud Seaman	299-3175	bbseaman@juno.com

March Board Meeting

The March Board Meeting will be held Mon, March 28, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Bunkhouse. All Members are Welcome to Attend.

Fundraising Committee

The Friends of Agua Caliente are continuing their efforts to raise funds to help rebuild the pedestrian bridge at the Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park, as well as to cover incidental expenses incurred. Following is a recap of our recent events and those currently planned through Spring 2005.

In Oct we hosted a table of handmade items at the Fall Country Fair at the Lew Sorensen Community Center. Although we did not make any money, we did provide information to many prospective members that will hopefully

bear some fruit. On Dec 30th, we had 38 members attend "Scrooge" at Gaslight Theatre. Everyone really enjoyed the show and thanks to the support of those who attended and the support and generosity of some who did not attend but made donations, we raised almost \$384 for the bridge effort. Our thanks to all of you and "God bless us, every one!"

Future Events.

A Live Theatre Workshop presentation of "Dial 'M' for Murder", Fri March 18, 2005,

7:30 pm. We have 50 seats blocked. Please call Audrey Watts (529-4637) for tickets.

Pancake Breakfast. We are planning a pancake breakfast, served by FOAC volunteers and our very own Rural Metro, District 72 firefighters. Scheduled date is Sat, **April 23, 2005, from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.** at Agua Caliente Park to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the historic buildings. Any date changes will be emailed to members. Volunteers are needed. Please call Jim Hilke-meyer (749-5909) for more details.

Membership Committee

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." Since our formation eleven years ago, the Friends have saved the building and the grounds from destruction twice, but our battling days seem to be over for now. It is time to "roll up our sleeves" and support the management of the Park.

Join us and volunteer to clean build-

ings, plant flowers, weed and trim, act as Docents, sponsor events, raise funds for improvements, 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 organization and the Park.

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 or Visa/MasterCard number to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005 or contact Sally Danielson, Membership/Volunteer Chairman, at 749-2184 for more information.

A Big Welcome to those who recently joined us: James Ayres, Mr. And Mrs. Richard Bertrand, Kathleen Drury, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brent Kyte, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Linwood Smith. Welcome Aboard!

Annual Meeting (cont. from page 1)

\$2,730.29 designated for the Bridge Fund.

National Historic Register.

The effort to place the Ranch House and other buildings on the Historic Register is progressing, but has encountered some resistance in Washington DC. More work will need to be done to push this effort through.

Volunteer Committee

FOAC provides an excellent opportunity to volunteer within the community and especially within our neighborhood Agua Caliente Park to maintain and enhance this beautiful oasis. Please consider giving the gift of time to this very special place. A special thanks to our members that contributed over 82 hours in 2004 to clean the Ranch House and the Bunkhouse. The members are: Sally Danielson, Mike Deal, Judy Gray, Francie Hilkemeyer, Marilyn McCrindle, and Maureen Mylander. The Friends also donated Christmas

decorations and the cleaning team decorated the Ranch House for Christmas.

FOAC members have also provided 47 Docent volunteer hours to date, guiding visitors through the Ranch House and expanding their knowledge of nature through birding and other activities. A special thanks to FOAC members Jim and Susan Knoll and Dick Watts.

This is a great way to enjoy the wonderful Tucson outdoors. Please consider volunteering. Contact Sally Danielson at 749-2184 for details.

FOAC

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

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Mailing Label

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park. Tucson Audubon Society has signed a contract with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation to occupy one of the Ranch House rooms. Audubon has already begun setting up the gift store. This will be a great fit with Agua Caliente Park activi-

ties and will provide easy access to the many amenities of the Audubon Society. The gift store is already open on a limited basis and will officially open around Mar 1. The "Grand Opening" is scheduled for Sat April 23rd, 2005.

Electronic Newsletter and Current Events

In an effort to reduce our mailing cost, we'd like to email the newsletter (in color) to those members with an email account. We will also email any short-notice or current events to members that may occur prior to the newsletter release. The newsletter should be less than 1 MB and in an Adobe Acrobat file that can be read with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. We will only use member email addresses for these purposes. If you would like to be included on email, please send your email address to Jim Knoll at jsknoll@earthlink.net. If you did not receive this edition via email, we do not have a current address on file.

FOAC Contributions

Did you know contributions to the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. are tax deductible and support our own neighborhood Park? FOAC is a 501(c)3 Corporation. Contributions may be sent to:
FOAC
P.O. Box 32005
Tucson, AZ 85751-2005
Check or credit card (M/C, Visa) accepted.

Newsletter Inputs.

Please send any inputs or suggestions for future newsletters to Jim Knoll at jsknoll@earthlink.net.