

WELLSPRING NEWS



July 2005

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Our first event held in the park—a pancake breakfast—was held on April 23rd, 2005 with tickets sold for the breakfast meal and raffle tickets sold for the fund for the new Bridge.

The weather complied with our needs and our coordinator, Jim Hilkemeyer, carefully orchestrated the day's events which, in addition to the food, offered western music supplied by The Due West Trio. Also, we had Pete Filiatrault (a

Friends member) on hand to describe life here on the ranch during the 1950's (before it was a park), when his parents and siblings owned the land and worked a full-scale ranch of 1,200 acres.

The event met our expectations and proceeds will be designated for certain improvements such as the bridge.

We wish to thank all of the members, volunteers, park personnel, and Rural Metro Fire Department who put in hours of work

to ensure this event would be a pleasurable experience for everyone who came out and supported this first-time venture.

We also would be remiss in not mentioning our appreciation to the Gaslight Theatre and Tucson Audubon Society for supporting our activities in addition to having its Grand Opening that same afternoon.

Another item of interest: We are contemplating the installation of a

vending machine for distribution of water and Gatorade to supplement revenue directed to the park, along with offerings needed or desired items that would be of useful service in the park.

This promises to be an interesting year as the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. strives to continue its efforts to solicit new members to participate in keeping the park as the "oasis in the desert" that it should be.

Dick Watts

Board Meeting held May 23rd

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held May 23rd, 2005 in the Bunkhouse of Agua Caliente Park.

The Board reviewed the various Committee reports (Fundraising, Pancake Breakfast, Newsletter/Website, Membership/Historian, Publicity, and Park Liaison) detailed throughout the

newsletter. Old business covered included the Memorial Wall, Endowment Fund, National Historic Register, and Vending Machines.

For details concerning any programs not outlined in the newsletter, please contact one of the Members of the Board. There will not be a July Board meeting, so the next meeting will be September 26th, 2005 at 7 pm in the Bunkhouse.

New FOAC Website

We finally have a new FOAC website up and running. The address is:

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

We will keep the site updated with current Park activities, photos of the Park, links to other sites related to the Park and of interest to members of FOAC, and an outline of Agua Caliente Park history. The site also includes ar-

chived copies of the Wellspring News, the FOAC Bylaws and Goals, and procedures to make a donation, join FOAC, or send us your comments.

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

Jim Knoll

From the Bunkhouse: Westward Ho *by Pete Filiatrault*

Our family arrived August 25th, 1951 with all our belongings and four dogs and moved into the Agua Caliente Ranch. We had actually purchased the Ranch in June 1951, but after staying here a couple of weeks, we went back to Fond du Lac, WI to pack up everything and move west. We traveled from Fond du Lac to Tucson in a four car caravan or was it a four wagon "Wagon Train". We did have one station wagon. If you think it was easy to keep four cars together, traveling 1,950 plus miles, you are wrong. We did pretty good though keeping everyone together. There were times when one or another car strayed from the group, but we always found each other again. However, there was one day when my Father, driving one of the cars

alone, seemed to disappear. When we stopped for the evening, he was nowhere in sight. Around 9:30 pm my Dad finally showed up. He said that he knew where he was all the time and that he was never lost. He said it was the other three cars that were lost, not him.

Another incident we had was rather comical; however my parents did not think so. Traveling with us were our two Parakeets, Junior & Pedro. We stopped at a restaurant in Kansas, and as it was hot, and we did not have air conditioning, we brought the Parakeets (in their cage) into the Restaurant. My oldest sister Frances, without my parent's permission, decided to let her parakeet, Junior out to sit on her finger, as she thought he might be lonely. Immediately, Junior took off and

flew around inside the restaurant. Eventually he spied a man with a bald head, his favorite type of "landing strip". He landed on the very surprised man's head and started talking to him. My sister quickly went over and got Junior and put him back in his cage. The man was very good natured about the incident although my parents were thoroughly exasperated. It originally was their intention to spend the winters in Tucson and go back to Wisconsin for the summer. Perhaps the thought of another cross country trip with four cars, parakeets, and who knows what else, was one of the reasons that they decided to stay in Tucson year round.

Events at Agua Caliente Park

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

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Desert Dwellers: Mon Jul 11—Thurs Jul 14, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Partnership with Tucson Botanical, Children ages 8-12 will learn about the animals, plants and people who inhabit the desert. Explore the desert oasis at Agua Caliente Park and the urban oasis at Tucson Botanical Gardens. To register call

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 326-9686, ext. 18.

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Earthkeepers Nature Study at Agua Caliente Park: Mon July 18—Thurs July 21, 8:30 am to 3 pm. Explore the cycling of energy and materials; discover connections between plants and animals, enjoy new discoveries in nature. Children ages 9-12 are invited to the Earthkeepers Training Center at Agua Caliente Park for a unique 4-day nature

study experience. Fee \$50. See enrollment form in Pima County Leisure Times at www.pima.gov

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Other events listed on the FOAC web site are: Wildlife viewing and Park History; Wake up with the Birds; and Plants up close.

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The Ranch House is open 8 am-4 pm Tues-Sat (closed 12-1). Come check it out!

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	cfordjr@juno.com
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

September Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held Mon, September 26th, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Bunkhouse. All Members are Welcome to Attend.

Fundraising Committee

Committee Chairperson Jim Hilkemeyer report on our **PANCAKES IN THE PARK** fundraising event on April 23rd at Agua Caliente Park is located below, but we have other fundraising news as well.

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CRAFT SHOW AT THE MAGIC GARDEN: On Saturday, April 30th, we manned a table of handmade items, with Friends brochures and newsletters. It was a slow day for crafts, but we did “introduce” the park to one person

and we updated another person who hadn't been to the park for several years. Sales from this show totaled \$6.00 plus a donation of \$1.00.

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SGT. PRESTON SAVES CHRISTMAS at THE GASLIGHT THEATRE — November 17th, 2005. This year's Christmas show at The Gaslight Theatre sounds like a fun show, so mark your calendars and make your reservations early, as we have blocked only 50 tickets for the 8:30 p.m.

show on Thursday evening, November 17th, 2005. It offers a humorous opening to the Christmas Season before the rush begins! Tickets are the same as last year — \$24.50 adults; \$22.50 seniors, Students and military; and \$11.00 children 12 and under. I know it is hard to think about the Christmas season when the temps outside are pushing 100 degree but it will be here before you know it. Call Audrey at 529-4637 for reservations.

Audrey Watts

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 buildings 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 buildings, 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 Mike Deal, Membership Chairman, at 749-1984 for more information.

Pancakes in the Park



The “PANCAKES IN THE PARK” event was a great success. It was to be a way to raise some funds, increase membership and “Friends exposure” .

The Board of Agua Caliente, the members, Friends, the Rural Metro Fire Department, park staff, volunteer presenters, are all to be congratulated.

We think we had a little over 300 attend. With a rotating clientele we were able to handle this many people at our first park event without overloading the parking or the park.

We made approximately \$2,000 from the

breakfast. Congrats to all!

Jim and Francie Hilkemeyer



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 opened their gift store in the historic Ranch House. This will be a great fit with Agua Caliente Park activities and will provide easy access to the many amenities of the Audubon Society. The gift store summer hours are

Fri-Tues, 9 am—12 pm. In addition to the normal Audubon gifts, the Society has agreed to sell FOAC note cards. Please stop by and support the store.

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 or review the newsletter on the web site. 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.