

# WELLSPRING NEWS

## March 2006

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

### From the President:

2005 was a busy year. The Friends hosted two successful fundraising events outside the Park, one in March and one in November. We also placed two vending machines in the Park near the restrooms which will continue to generate revenue on an on-going basis.

In Apr, we hosted the first event in the Park, a Pancake Breakfast. We had a great turnout and plan to have it again this April. Look for details in the newsletter and on the

website.

The Ranch House, a renovated 1920's style building, which also includes as tenants, the Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop at Agua Caliente and an art gallery devoted to local artists who can display their artwork for 6-week intervals, had approximately 8,500 visitors in 2005.

In addition to fundraising activities and Ranch House offerings, the Park personnel offer informative walks relating to bird

habitats, plant life, and trees, both native and non-native, showing this unique Park for the benefit of the public at no cost.

The Friends of Agua Caliente hope that our current membership will continue to support our Park and ask that you invite your friends and acquaintances to join us and become members and/or volunteers.

Dick Watts

### National Register Of Historic Places

Work still progresses on listing Agua Caliente Park (ACP) on the National Register, but it's not a "done deal" yet. The County met with the Keeper of the Register on Mon Feb 20th to hold a workshop and discuss four ranches, including ACP, that failed to meet the requirements for registration last year. The County is being asked to revise their registration papers to meet stricter requirements. Stay tuned for updates.

### Membership Meeting held January 23rd

The annual membership meeting of the Friends of Agua Caliente was held January 23rd, 2005 in the Bunkhouse of Agua Caliente Park.

The Board elected officers and new board members. Dick Watts was re-elected as President and Sally Danielson was re-elected as Vice President. Mike Deal was elected as the new Secretary and Francie Hilkemeyer was elected as the new Treasurer. A special thanks to Audrey Watts (out-

going Secretary) and Pete Filiatrault (out-going Treasurer). They both served their full-terms (3 years) in those positions and significantly contributed to the mission and goals of FOAC. Also, Mike Deal was re-elected for his second 3-year term on the Board and Francie Hilkemeyer was elected to her first 3-year term. A special thanks to our outgoing board members Jim Hilkemeyer and Carolyn Classen for their great support over the years. Our next board meeting is March 27th 2006 at 7 pm in the Bunkhouse.

### 2nd ANNUAL PANCAKES IN THE PARK

Mark your calendar and spread the word. **Our second FOAC Pancakes in the Park fundraiser is scheduled for Sat April 22nd at Agua Caliente Park. Pancakes will be served from 8 am to 12 noon.** We'll have other activities to acquaint you with park history and the variety of animals and birds seen throughout the park. Visit the FOAC website for updates. Hope to see you there. If you'd like to help out, call Dick Watts at 529-4637, contact any board member listed on page 2 of the newsletter, or contact us through the website.

## From the Bunkhouse: Bridge at Agua Caliente by *Pete Filiatrault*

Today, I am writing you about something that really concerns me....the bridge to the island at Agua Caliente Park. The current bridge has been there since at least the 1930's. There are pictures in the Ranch House taken during the 30's, 40's, 50's, and beyond.

Pima County has blocked the bridge with wrought Iron Gates so no one can have access to the island. They say the bridge is unsafe and does not meet Americans for Disability Act. As far as not being safe, that is due to neglect by the County over the years. As the bridge was built nearly 75 years ago, it does not meet ADA Standards. The County is proposing to build a new modern bridge at another location to the island. They will leave the current bridge, which is becoming an eye sore, since it is "Historic". Estimates on the cost of the new bridge range anywhere

from \$40,000 to \$70,000. The County has asked that the Friends of Agua Caliente raise the money for a new bridge. Over the last four years, we have raised nearly \$5,000 and the County has collected somewhere around \$3,000. That is a total of approximately \$8,000 raised over more than four years. As you can see, it is going to take probably another ten years to raise enough money to build the bridge at today's cost. By then the cost will have probably doubled. So I don't see anyway we can raise the money to build the type of bridge the County wants.

My suggestion to the County is they take out the present bridge and replace it with one very similar, only make it wider with ramps to make it ADA compatible. They can do this with wood, which should last at least 50 more years. They can also use an alternative material made of both metal & plastic that looks like wood.

Then you would have a new bridge that looks similar to the original, but is better and safer. This could be done at a much cheaper cost than what is now proposed. The lake will not look good with two bridges, one of which cannot be used. If you agree, write or email:

Supervisor Ray Carroll  
130 W. Congress Street, 11th Floor  
Tucson Arizona 85701  
Phone: (520) 740-8094  
Fax: (520) 740-2721  
Email: district4@pima.gov

The views expressed here are solely mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Friends of Agua Caliente. You can reach me at [aguacaliente@comcast.net](mailto:aguacaliente@comcast.net).

Pete Filiatrault

We appreciate any donation to support the bridge fund.

### FOAC Website

The FOAC website is a great source of current information. The address is: [http://www.geocities.com/fo\\_agua\\_caliente/](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 us know if you have suggestions for improvement.

Jim Knoll

### Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

Check the FOAC web site for up-to-date events at the Park:  
[www.geocities.com/fo\\_agua\\_caliente](http://www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente)

#### Wake Up with The Birds

Every Tuesday

February — 8:30 am

March-December — 7:45 am

#### Nature Walks every Saturday

September - April: 10 am and 1 pm

May — August: 10 am only

Watching wildlife through the spotting scope usually once/month.

#### Ranch House Gallery:

March 2nd—Apr 9th. Jack Challem—Photographer "West by West", recent photos of the west and southwest US and Ireland.

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

### Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in ( ) below the name

Richard Watts, President (Park Liaison)	529-4637	
Sally Danielson, Vice President (Volunteer)	749-2184	sawynd@aol.com
Mike Deal, Secretary (Membership)	749-1984	miguelitodeal@aol.com
Francie Hilkemeyer, Treasurer Audrey Watts (Fundraising)	247-9776 529-4637	fhilk@msn.com
Chuck Ford	748-7612	cfordjr@juno.com
Jim Knoll (Newsletter, Website)	760-7609	foac@earthlink.net
Sandy Sarah	885-7466	sjsarah@earthlink.net
Bud Seaman	299-3175	bbseaman@juno.com
Peter Filiatrault	577-8202	azghost@comcast.net
Committee Chair (Non Board Member)		
Jim Hilkemeyer (Nominating, Pancakes in the Park)	247-9776	jim@hilkeway.com

## Fundraising Committee

Our fundraising activities in 2005 consisted of selling 45 tickets to a performance of "Dial 'M' for Murder" at Live Theatre Workshop in March, a table of handmade items and Park information at The Magic Garden in May, and selling 52 tickets to a performance of "Sgt. Preston Saves Christmas" at the Gaslight Theatre in November, which raised a total of \$1,016.10. The Pancakes in the Park committee, chaired by Jim Hilkemeyer, raised over \$2,000 at our first annual event.

Friends photo note cards are

## 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

also being sold in the Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop at Agua Caliente, depicting Park scenes. The sale benefits both the Tucson Audubon Society and FOAC. The Friends received donations of \$76.20 in 2005 from this project.

The Fundraising Committee, with its events, is also a conduit for donations for our Bridge Fund and other projects and distributes brochures and information to the public about the Park, the Friends, and future events.

Audrey Watts

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

## Artwork Donation

The Friends of Agua Caliente would like to acknowledge receipt of a donation from member Ruth Canada, an artist who exhibited her work in the December mixed media exhibition at the Ranch House Gallery "in appreciation of the privilege of having my work in the Ranch House Gallery". Her greeting card "Blondie's Duck" is now on sale in the Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop at Agua Caliente in large and small versions.

Great Blue Heron



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.

### Welcome new members:

Jeanelin and John Barron, Ms. Jo Anne Ciolli, Carla and Cory Hove, Mr. & Mrs. S. Rowe Miller, Mr. & Mrs Matt Neely, and Paula and Carol Stoner.

Please don't forget to renew your annual dues (they are due now).

Mike Deal

## A Very Special Donation for the Bridge Fund

The Friends of Agua Caliente Park have received a \$1,000 donation in memory of John and Irene Ahlers, both late residents of Tucson, toward the rebuilding of the foot-bridge at Agua Caliente Park from their children, Mrs. Kris Sader (currently residing in Maine) and Mrs. Berta Zimdars (residing in Minnesota).

Ms. Sader writes "...the park was very special to both my parents and as a result is special to my two sisters and me. My husband, two daughters and now grand-

daughter have all been there as well. It is dear to us because our memories of the park are wrapped in the memories of accompanying my parents to the park. My parents would go together to the park many times in their later years. It was a place where they felt safe and a place of peace for them.

We know they particularly enjoyed the island. My father brought my mother there out of love and after

she was gone, he returned there with us to be close to her. That is why we would like to donate to the rebuilding of the bridge to the island. My sister and I make this donation in the names of our parents, since it is they who made this donation possible in more than one way. My mother, who raised four children, died in 1999 and my father died in the spring of 2004. Our last visit together to the park was late October 2003.

See the complete letter on the FOAC website.

Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible donation to the Bridge Fund should send a check made payable to Friends of Agua Caliente, PO Box 32005, Tucson AZ 85751-2005 with "Bridge Fund" noted on the check.

# FOAC

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

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE  
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## Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

As we approach our 1-year anniversary, the Audubon Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Agua Caliente for their support. More people visit the nature shop everyday and we learn more about what visitors want in the shop.

One of our best sellers has been the beautiful note cards created by

FOAC and I'm happy to announce that we now carry them in our main Audubon Nature Shop on University Blvd too. In addition, we now have a nice selection of note cards from the visiting artists featured in the Ranch House Gallery. Our selection changes regularly so stop in and see what's new.

On December 17th, one dozen volunteers from Tucson Audubon

Society and the Pima County Park Naturalists gathered to count the birds of Agua Caliente Park for the Catalina Circle of the national Christmas Bird Count. We tallied over 45 species and more than 600 individual birds and had a great time doing it.

Since we began keeping records in May, we have observed over 118 species of birds in the park, including such rarities as the Blue-throated Hummingbird and White-faced Ibis. Every month brings new rarities so its no wonder Agua Caliente Park is always on the hit list for visiting birders. We never know just who will show up in the park, but we do hope it's you!

Shop Hours:

Friday—Tuesday, 10 am—4 pm  
Located in the sunroom of the  
Ranch House. (520) 760-7881

Vivian MacKinnon, Shop Manager

## 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 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 foac@earthlink.net. The Wellspring News is also available on the website.