

WELLSPRING NEWS

November 2008

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Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Friends of Agua Caliente. There is a lot happening within FOAC and at the Park. Now that it is starting to cool down, Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation is gearing up for an active winter season. The Tues bird walks are a great way to start the day and have some fun birding. There are also many great programs on the weekend, from historic tours of the Park to learning about life in our pond. The Cultural/Historic lec-

ture series also begins in earnest in November. Check out this edition of the Wellspring News or the FOAC website (www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente) for a complete list. Hopefully we'll see you at the Park.

Within FOAC, we are active accomplishing fundraising events and acting as your voice with the County. We'd like your feedback on what you feel is important to preserve the Park and maintain it as a special

retreat and where we and Pima County should focus our efforts. You can send comments to me at FOAC@q.com. We plan to develop a survey in the near future as well and we'll let you know when it is on line.

One particular issue is rebuilding the bridge and reopening the island for all to enjoy. We could use your help. Raising the funds to complete this project will be difficult without support from the community. As you can read in "From the

Bunkhouse", the island is an integral part of Agua Caliente and should be rebuilt. We would particularly like your feedback on this issue so we can provide the Pima County Natural Resources with community input. You can send comments to me at FOAC@q.com. With your help, we can make this project a reality. We'd also welcome your help with any of our projects. Thank you!!

Jim Knoll

Annual Membership Meeting Planned for January 26th, 2009

Join us for our annual membership meeting on January 26th, 2009 at 7 PM in the Bunkhouse at Agua Caliente Park. We expect a busy 2009 and welcome any help.

The Nominating Committee also forwarded the nominations of Judy Gray and Mike Deal for another three-year term on the Board of Directors. Francie Hilkemeyer requested to come off the Board. Francie will be replaced by Lynda Nash for a three

-year term. The Committee also forwarded the nominations of: Jim Knoll (President), Chuck Ford (V Pres), Mike Deal (Secretary), and Sally Danielson (Treasurer) for 2009. Voting for Board of Director and officer positions will take place during the meeting and members must be present at the annual meeting to vote. Thank you to Francie (as Secretary/Board Member) and Pete (as Treasurer) for their great service to FOAC. Pete will remain on the Board.

See you in January!!

National Registration Nomination Update

Pima County's consultant, Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), has been working steadily on the nomination. They will be delivering the nomination package to the County no later than 14 November for a final review before it is sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SRI had requested an extension due to the number of comments received from the first round. Once the final version has been submitted and accepted by SHPO, it will be passed to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington DC. We anticipate acceptance, but the final word will be given to us via the Arizona SHPO. The entire process should be completed soon!!

Simon Herbert
Program Coordinator

From the Bunkhouse: The Bridge at Agua Caliente

In 1951, when we moved to “The Agua Caliente Ranch”, there was a very nice wooden bridge from the shore in front of the small island in the lake. That bridge is still there, however it is in such disrepair that it needs to be replaced. I have very fond memories of the bridge. We had two boats, one a canoe and the other a flat bottom row boat. We used these boats to travel around to the three lakes near to the Ranch house. There were small canals between the lakes that made this possible. We had a lot of fun rowing around the lakes. The boats were also used for the two hired hands to pull out the cat tails and reeds as they broke the surface of the water. We kept the three lakes around the house free from reeds & cattails. Here is a picture of my parents in the foreground and myself and one of the dogs in the background.



We also swam in the part of the lake which now is overrun with cattails, as at that time it was separated from the bridge where the island is by a piece of land that was about 10 feet wide.

Having a bridge to the island goes back to 1901. I have a photograph donated to us that shows a bridge to the island dated 1901, however it was not this bridge. As far as I can tell, the current bridge was built sometime during the mid 1930's and was in use until the 1990's.

After the county took over the park many people used the island for weddings and had their pictures taken out there. They also just went out and sat on the bench that was there, or on the ground and enjoyed the peace and quiet. The bridge is really a historical feature of the Ranch and I hope that somehow we can save it.

Pete Filiatrault
“The ghost of Agua Caliente”



Electronic Newsletter

We would sure like to send you this newsletter electronically and save FOAC postage. The benefit to you is you get it quickly and in color. If you received this edition via mail and would like to get it

via email, please let me know at foac@q.com. I will not give your address away and you will not get spammed by me. We only send the newsletter twice per year and will send you a few special announcements of current activities at the Park throughout

the year. You can also access the newsletter on-line at the FOAC website listed at the bottom of this page. The website also has lots of current activities taking place at the Park. Bookmark and visit it often. Thanks.

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

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 Walks/other events (most Sat's)

Historic Speaker Series — Sun 1 pm
The First Century of the Coronado
National Forest (Nov 9)

A Forgotten History: German Jesuits
as Founders of Arizona? (Nov 16)
Arizona Sheriffs (Dec 14)

Additional Lectures listed on Website

Ranch House Gallery:

Oct 8—Nov 18: Eclectic Expressions

Nov 19—Jan 2: Variations

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

4TH ANNUAL PANCAKES IN THE PARK WITH THE FRIENDS

Yes sir, we did it again. We had another successful Pancakes in the Park on a bright and beautiful Saturday morning in April. The park couldn't have been more inviting and everyone had a grand time. Just exactly what we planned.



Rural Metro came with all of their fiery red engines and the best "flapjacks" and sausage you've ever eaten. Cowboy Poet, Ken Whitecot-



ton led the entertainment troops with country songs by the Branded Duo and Mexican traditional music from the Pueblo High School Mariachi Band. Everyone's toes were tap-

ping and some were even dancing on the lawn.



Pete Filiatrault recounted Agua Caliente ranch life and Judy Gray entertained children of all ages with her special puppet friends. More information was given by Pima

County volunteers on wildlife and how to eradicate and control the dreaded invasives: buffelgrass and fountain grass. Something of interest for every breakfast participant.



Practically everyone won goodies in the door or raffle prize drawings too. The whooping and hollering could be heard all the way to Tanque Verde Road. You can't beat weekend vacations, golf outings, original art, fine dining, yard pottery and theme baskets for adding a festive feeling to the day.

Besides having such a good time, ticket purchases brought in \$2,500 to spend on park improvements such as new interpretive signs, benches, flower pots, and a permanent spotting scope. Thanks again for joining us and giving to your "oasis in the desert."

Also, much thanks goes to all of you who worked so hard to make this event such a success. These include Sally Danielson, chairman, Board members who headed up the subcommittees - Mike Deal, Paula Stoner, Mary Jane Dyson, Francie Hilkemeyer, Jim Knoll, and Bud Seaman, along with member volunteers Carolyn Classen, Jim Hilkemeyer, Susan Knoll and the park staff lead by Amy Loughner. We couldn't have done it without you. Additionally, other member and Board volunteers added their own special touch on the day of the breakfast. Kudos to Robin Bleecker, Chuck Ford, Tornie MacKay, Dorrell - Jo MacWhinnie, Joanne Mayo, Lynda Nash, and Thomas Weissenberger.

We're looking forward to more pancakes and good times together in March or April 2009. Watch for the date and save the time to spend with your favorite park and the Friends.

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

Come join us to help preserve our wonderful Park. 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. We can use your talent as a Board Member, Committee Chair, or to just help out. 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.

The 2008 Membership Drive concluded in May and we broke the 100 mark for the first time in our history! We now have 126 members!!

Welcome to our newest members: Ms. M.H. Brackett,

Jane & Tony Fennell, Ellery & Nancy Green, Eileen & John Lamse, Tornie MacKay & Family, Jim McCorry & Mary Keane, Joan Peyton, Dan & Donna Pyevich, and Hal Williams and Family.

We appreciate all the members that have renewed their membership for another year.....We can't do what we do without a great membership!

Current membership roster:

Family Memberships:	53
Individual Memberships:	20

Total Memberships: 73

Voting Members: 126
(1 for individual / 2 for family)

Mike Deal

FOAC

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

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
JANUARY 26TH, 2009
7 PM at Agua Caliente Park**

Mailing Label

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

There's No Place Like Home

Late spring and summer I visited many Western states and included stops to national, state and regional parks. I and my travel buddy, Mike bicycled the pristine Rails to Trails in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, we hiked and birded over buttes, volcanic forests and wondered at awesome rivers and waterfalls in Washington and Oregon and birded the Klamath Lakes Refuge which straddles Oregon and California. A short mid-Coastal California trip was a shorebirds delight and a very special reunion with a large flock of Black Skimmers, a species I hadn't seen since my days in Baja California, Mexico.

These opportunities to commune with nature while traveling are real

gifts and I relish the planning of the next adventure. Meanwhile I live and work in another "naturally" gifted state, Arizona, with daily sightings of nature's wonders in Agua Caliente Park, so it's always great to come home to this little gem in the desert and now that Fall is here the annual migration of real snow birds is transforming the park.

The Tucson Audubon Nature Shop is expanding its hours for the busier season and introducing new products as well. To embellish Pima County's History programs in the Rose cottage we now have an Arizona history section in our shop. New items are always introduced, such as our Sonora Desert Native Seed packs, so come on in and look

at the great variety and plan and set your garden color now. As our way of saying Thank You for supporting Tucson Audubon both shops will be having our annual post Thanksgiving 20% sale on all inventory on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29.

Tucson Audubon will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2009 with a number of special events which will be announced in our newsletter and on line at www.tucsonaudubon.org. Save the date, February 4th for our Gala at the Arizona Inn, you won't want to miss this.

Hours: Tuesday, Friday and
Saturday 9am – 3:30 pm
2nd and 3rd Sunday 10 am – 2:30 pm

Becky Aparicio 760-7881