

# WELLSPRING NEWS

## Summer 2012

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente (FOAC), Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

### From the President:

Dear Friends:

Happy Monsoon. The rain feels so good and is revitalizing our desert. The main pond is still down some and the flow rate unfortunately is low. Hopefully the rain will continue for the full monsoon.

These days we all have many demands on our time and talents and balancing these demands can be difficult. I would like to offer you an opportunity to contribute to a jewel we have right here

in our backyard — the development and sustainment of Agua Caliente Park. As an active “Friends” group with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, we have a strong working relationship with our County representatives. We are a small working board, but not too busy, meeting 5 times throughout the year with a few other activities scattered in. Now is a great time to help formulate the future of Agua Caliente

Park. We currently have several open Board member positions and would love to have you join us. Feel free to contact me at the email address listed on page 2.

See you at the Park!

*Jim Knoll*



Thank you to my wife Susan for these great pictures throughout the newsletter!!

### FOAC Website

Visit the FOAC Website listed at the bottom of Page two or scan the code below to get an up to date listing of current events, history of FOAC, archive copies of the newsletter, pictures of the park and inhabitants, and many other exciting facts about Agua Caliente Park!



### FUNDRAISING NEWS

The highlight of our fundraising year was our second Member-Donor Reception which was held on the



Ranch House

patio on Saturday, February 4th. The reception was attended by approximately 50 guests. A wide array of desserts were provided by our FOAC Board members. Entertainment was provided by *Midnight*, a

fabulous jazz combo from **Catalina Foothills High School**.

Our many visitors to Agua Caliente Park are enjoying our recent acquisitions, the dual binocular viewing scope from the **Martha Neff Foundation** and the new picnic tables that were donated by the **Freeport McMoran Foundation**. FOAC also plans to purchase two decorative, **hand-forged sign bases** for Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) to mount new and updated park signage.

We are also pleased to announce the Friends of Agua Caliente re-

ceived a sponsorship from the **Jim Click Automotive Team** for an 8 bike commercial bicycle rack. This will enhance the program for health and wellness experience for the many cyclists who frequent the park.

Let us know if you have any suggestions for amenities within the Park or any leads on foundations to which we can apply for grants. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

*Lynda Nash & Maura Brackett  
The Fundraising Team*

## From the Bunkhouse: A Kiss Before Dying

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 Sahuarita. “A Kiss Before Dying” was released in June 1956.

*Pete Filiatrault*  
“The ghost of Agua Caliente”

## Upcoming Events at Agua Caliente Park

Check the FOAC website (Park Events) for up-to-date events / times and additional details:

<http://FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org>

### Wake Up with The Birds

7:30 (August)

8:00 (September)

Every Thursday—  
time may adjust  
later as temps cool.



### Lizard Walk (Aug 14 & 28)

**Outdoor Family Days:** Ultimate Scavenger Hunt (reservations required), August 25th

**Celebrate Bats** (reservations required), Sat Sept 8th 5:30-8 PM

**Sonoran Desert Kids Club:** Prickly Pear Harvest (reservations required), Sat September 15th  
**Ranch House Gallery**

Like Mother-Like Daughter,  
July 20—August 15

Desert Landscapes in Mosaic,  
August 17—September 12

Out West, September 14-  
October 10

**Lecture Series** will continue this Fall. Check the website for details as they become available.

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

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in ( ) below the name

Jim Knoll, <b>President</b> ( <b>Newsletter, Website, Membership</b> )	jimknoll@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Chuck Ford, <b>Vice President</b> ( <b>Park Liaison</b> )	chuckford@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Peggy Denny, <b>Treasurer</b>	peggydenny@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Maura Brackett, <b>Secretary</b>	maurabackett@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Pete Filiatrault	petefiliatrault@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
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Cole Quilliam	colequilliam@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Joyce Roughton	joyceroughton@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Sandy Sarah	sandysarah@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Paula Stoner ( <b>Historian</b> )	paulastoner@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.org
Richard Watts (Emeritus)	

## Volunteer your Time & Talents

Do you like to interact with other people? Would you like to



learn more about nature and the environment. How about supporting the many gems we have right here in Tucson?

If you would like to volunteer at Agua Caliente Park or any of the other Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Parks, call (520) 615-7855.



## Nature Corner by Judy Gray

### Northern Shoveler

Common Name:

**Spoonbill; Spooney**

Range: Ponds or marshes

Species: Weight about 1lb 4 oz

The long spoon shaped bill gives this small duck a front heavy look.



When swimming, it sits low with bill angled toward the water. It also is adept at catching insects. The bill is designed to sift mud and water through the sieve which is on the edges of the mandibles and traps edible aquatic vegetation. 35 percent of their diet is animal matter. They seldom tip up or dive.

Male: Glossy green or blue head, white breast, chestnut sides and

orange feet. Bill color variable.

Female: Drab like a mallard female. She lays 10-14 eggs in a clutch.

Because of diet, they are not palatable, making them undesirable to eat.

### American Coot

Shore bird — Chicken like bird.

Range: Park ponds, lakes, lawns, marshes, & golf courses.

Species: Mostly black, white wing tips, white bill up to their eye. Eyes are red, long green legs and toes are lobed. Very noisy



birds — crackles & croaks.

It runs & skitters on top of the

water when taking flight.

Has jerking head back & forth when swimming.

Dives from the surface and feeds on aquatic vegetation & insects.

Fun to watch on our Agua Caliente Park Pond!!



Northern Shoveler (center) with Coot (foreground) and Mallards (background)



Everyone likes our new picnic tables

Who needs a dedicated bird bath — This will do just fine



## Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

### Join Friends of Agua Caliente

Wow — what a fantastic membership year. Thank you to our loyal supporters and welcome to our new members and donors. We could not provide the support to NRPR without great supporters like you.

**We closed out the 2012 membership year with 194 members and donors, an increase of over 21 percent from 2011!** Your time, talents, and donations make the difference at this historic time in the life of our organization and the Park.

We hope you will continue to

support the *Friends of Agua Caliente* as we look forward to the 2013 membership year beginning in October. 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.”

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation, therefore all donations are tax-deductible. Membership is based on the following schedule:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Organization	\$50
Donation (any amount appreciated)	

Please send Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email along with Check to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

or contact Jim Knoll at the email address listed on page 2. Additional membership information is also listed on the website.

Your dedication to the Park and FOAC is greatly appreciated. We hope you will choose to become involved in the Friends of Agua Caliente and Agua Caliente Park. If there is anything we can do, let us know. We can't do what we do without great members and donors!

*Jim Knoll*

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

## Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park



Tucson Audubon Society nature shop at Agua Caliente Park is a great retail store for nature oriented materials and a wonderful outreach in the community to spread the word about our activities and local environmental concerns. In addition, we have a growing database on all things “birdy”. Next time you visit, ask to see our “bird book” which will give you a better understanding of the species and numbers of birds that have visited the park.

Liz Harrison, a Tucson Audubon Volunteer, is the Shop Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at Agua Caliente Park. Please stop in and check out the shop on your next visit to the Park. For current operating hours, call the shop at (520) 760-7881.



**Cedar Waxwing**

## Facebook

FOAC is on Facebook. Follow us to stay abreast on late breaking and current events. To find FOAC, search “Friends of Agua Caliente Tucson” within Facebook or access us from our FOAC website.

## Postcards



**Northern Cardinal**

FOAC sells Agua Caliente Postcards (as a fundraiser) at the Audubon Shop in the Ranch House. We appreciate your support of the Friends of Agua Caliente.