

WELLSPRING NEWS

Winter 2015

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

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The *Friends of Agua Caliente* is strong and active thanks to you. We have a great group of supporters, allowing FOAC to support a variety of projects for Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation (NRPR). We would love to have additional representation on the Board of Directors or as Committee Members to ensure Agua Caliente remains a beautiful "Oasis in the Desert". **The Annual meeting will be Monday February 2nd, 2015, 7 pm, in the Bunkhouse (brown building).** If you would like to participate in developing new and innovative ideas for the Park, please join us. **All meetings are open and the dates are listed on the *Friends* website.**

If you have been to the Park lately, you will notice the main pond is full. Although the spring is still not flowing, Pima County has

keep the waterfowl, birds, and wildlife that depend on the pond and make the transition to a re-developed pond easier.

My tenure as President of the *Friends* has come to an end. I would like to thank all the Board Members, Members & Supporters, and the Pima County NRPR staff for the support and dedication to make Agua Caliente Park a superb venue for residents and visitors. The *Friends* cannot function without this exceptional support.

Let's hope we all have a healthy, prosperous, and productive 2015!

Jim Knoll

Nominations

Slate for FOAC Board Positions:

President: Peggy Denny

Treasurer: Vacant. Will be temporarily held by Peggy Denny until a new Treasurer is selected. (additional nominations welcome)

Board Member Renewal (2015 – 2018)

Judy Gray
Joyce Roughton

Additional nominations will be taken at the Annual Meeting and the final Slate will be voted.

We have open Board positions if you would like to help shape the future of Agua Caliente Park!

Bond Initiative

The 2015 Pima County Bond Initiative is still progressing. As of press time, Agua Caliente remains part of the package. The Bond Committee should forward their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this spring with the intent (hopefully) for it to go to the voters this fall. The Park initiative will be critical to fixing the long-term sustainability of the main pond for future generations. For a description of the effort, go to www.pima.gov/bonds. Once there, select Parks and Recreation to see a list of proposed projects to include the Agua Caliente Park Pond Restoration.

The Friends of Agua Caliente supports the restoration and believes it is the only way to maintain Agua Caliente Park as a beautiful contemplative destination for families and visitors for generations to come. We sincerely hope you will support this worthwhile endeavor as well. Stay tuned to our Website and Facebook page for updates.



Photo by Susan Knoll

increased ground water pumping to maintain this level in the short-term until the Bond Initiative is funded and able to move forward. Maintaining the level will help

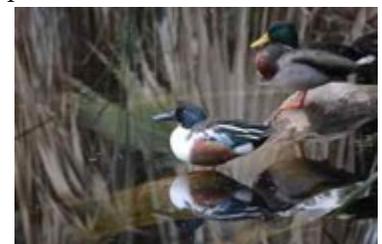


Photo by Susan Knoll

Northern Shovelers enjoying the pond

From the Bunkhouse: Agua Caliente Ranch

In the past, I have mainly shared my remembrances of life on Agua Caliente Ranch, but in this issue I thought I would give you a little history of the Ranch itself.

When Ft. Lowell was founded, they created the Ft. Lowell Military Reservation, which offered U.S. Military Protection to the settlers who homesteaded the area. In 1893, Peter Bain filed a homestead on what is now the Ranch. He built the first



building, currently the dining room of the Ranch

House. If you look, you can see how thick the walls of that room are as they were made of adobe. On March 1, 1875, James P. Fuller bought the property from Peter Bain for \$300 and established Fuller's Hot Springs Ranch. He planted orange, grapefruit & date palm trees. The orange & grapefruit groves were still there producing an

abundance of fruit when we bought the property in 1951. Poor health forced Fuller to convey the ranch to his sister, Eliza Jane Fuller Watson in 1882. J.P. Fuller died on the train near Yuma on his way to California with his sister for treatment of his heart condition.

In the *Arizona Weekly Citizen*, June 11, 1882, appeared the following article: "Yesterday was an exceedingly pleasant one for driving, and on the strength of it, the boys had their girls out in full force, mostly heading for the Agua Caliente Ranch where, under the charge of Mrs. Watson, one of the best Sunday dinners that

can be had in the



Territory was partaken of. The orange, fig, apricot, and other fruit trees are in full bearing and in a country like this, it is a rare treat to be able to gather fruit from the parent stem. The table

at the ranch is regularly supplied with the best that can be bought or grown. As a summer resort, the ranch has no equal in this part of the Territory and anyone contemplating a short trip to the country can do no better than give the ranch a call. For many years past it has been famous for the sanitarial (sic) qualities of its hot springs. Invalids giving them a trial invariably came away benefitted and refreshed. Parties wishing to visit the ranch can do so without inconvenience, by leaving their order at the grocery store of Mr. Sutton on the corner of Church and Congress street and the carriage of the ranch will call at any desired place on Saturday and Tuesday which are the regular days for the carriage to come in. The place is well provided with comfortable sleeping apartments. A large dining room and new bathhouse have been added. Give the ranch a visit and recommend it to your friends."

Pete Filiatrault

The Ghost of Agua Caliente

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in () below

Jim Knoll, **President**

([Newsletter](#), [Website](#), [Membership](#))

Maura Brackett, **Vice President**

([Fundraising](#), [Nominations](#))

Sylvia Olberding, **Secretary**

Peggy Denny, **Treasurer**

([Website](#))

Pete Filiatrault

([Co-Founder](#))

Chuck Ford

([County Liaison](#))

Christine Glanz

Judy Gray

Vaughn Johnson

Lynda Nash

([Fundraising](#))

Joyce Roughton

Sandy Sarah

([Co-Founder](#))

Linwood Smith

Board Member email addresses are:

FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org

Electronic Newsletter

Sending the newsletter to our members & supporters electronically saves FOAC postage and you receive it in color. If you did not receive an electronic version and would like to, please send an email to INFO@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org to be placed on the electronic distribution (we do not release our database to anyone).



Photo by Susan Knoll

Winter wonderland in the desert

Nature Corner by Judy Gray (Naturalist / FOAC Board Member)

The Desert Tortoise

The Desert Tortoise is an endangered species and is officially listed for protection by State and Federal Government.

It is 9 ¼ to 14 ½ “ long. Small round head is reddish tan and greenish yellow. It has elephantine hind legs. Shell is gray and black formed into plates. The gular horn forms the elongation joining the two gular plates at the front of the throat.

Breeding: Spring. Nests May – July. Lays 2 – 3 clutches of 2 – 14 hard chalky sphere shaped eggs in a funnel shaped nest. Hatch Aug – Oct. They mature in 15 – 20 years.

Habitat: Tortoises hibernate from Nov – Jan. They are found in arid, sandy, or gravelly locations with creosote, thorn scrub & cacti; also in washes, and canyon bottoms. Burrows can be 32 feet deep.

Feeds on grasses & forbs, loves cacti fruit. Tortoises feed in early morning & late afternoon. The Tortoise and their eggs are desert prey to Jaguars, Ravens, Coyotes, Badgers, and Eagles.

Native Americans consumed them and Yavapai made medicine from crushed shell & tortoise urine.

Remember, if you pick one up, it will release a large amount of urine!

Ringtail Cat

The Ringtail Cat is the official Arizona State mammal.

Weight: 2 – 2 ½ Lbs. Lives 6 – 10 years.

Raccoon Family: Catlike in shape. Large catlike eyes and ears. Body is yellowish gray and whitish buff below. It has a long bushy tail with 7 – 8 bands with white & brown rings & black tip.

Habitat: Semi-deserts, canyons, elevation up to 9,000 feet. Lives in rock crevices, dens, & old buildings.

Breeding: Feb – Jun. Bears offspring once per year in May or June. Born with eyes closed & leaves den in 7 – 8 weeks.

Food: Omnivore; eats crayfish, reptiles, eggs, insects, baby birds, nuts, and fruit. Sleeps by day and ambushes at night with a fatal bite to the neck.

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, access us from our FOAC website, or scan the QR Code.

We will post current events & pictures so please “like, comment, and share” to expand our following!



Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

We have almost finished another membership year and once again, I want to thank all our loyal supporters of *the Friends of Agua Caliente* and the Park! If you have not yet renewed, please consider supporting FOAC. Our ability to support NRPR with funding and items they cannot normally accomplish within their budget cycle is tremendous and we owe it all to you. Our membership and donor year is October through the following September. As of Jan 1st, 2015 we have a total of 156 supporters (members and donors). Your generosity has raised over \$6,830.

It is not too late to join FOAC or renew your support. We would love to have you on our team. We also have some openings on the

Board of Directors if you would like to help shape the future of Agua Caliente Park.

The 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 a check to: Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005 or contact Jim Knoll at INFO@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org. Additional membership information is also on the FOAC website listed at the bottom of

the newsletter.

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. If you have ideas to improve the Park, we would like to hear that as well. We can't do what we do without great members and donors!

Jim Knoll



Photo by Susan Knoll

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751 - 2005

Annual Meeting February 2, 2015
7 PM in the Bunkhouse

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

Tucson Audubon Society runs two Nature Shops, as well as an Online Shop. These specialty stores offer books, optics, and other natural history items. Proceeds benefit Tucson Audubon programs. Nature Shop staff and volunteers provide a wealth of information to many visitors. Whether you're looking for some new birding gear, a Sonoran Desert gift, or just to chat about birding, make Tucson Audubon your one stop shop! Our nature shop at Agua Caliente Park is one of many ways to connect with the birds, habitats, and people of our special region. The Agua Caliente shop sells *Friends of Agua Caliente* postcards, a great way for many visitors to remember our special park.

Join the weekly Thursday morning "Wake Up With the Birds" bird walk at the park and receive a 10% discount on your purchases. Or, join as a Tucson Audubon member and receive the

discount all year long, bigger discounts at special times of the year, and lots of other benefits.

This winter, we hope you will join us for the seventh annual gala on Tuesday February 10th. *An Evening for the Birds, Bringing Nature Home* will be at the Hilton El Conquistador. The keynote speaker for the evening is Brad Lancaster who is one of the nation's foremost experts on rainwater harvesting and author of the *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond* series. His presentation for the evening is titled "*Oasis Tucson: Transforming Mirage to Reality*". For questions or to register online, visit tucsonaudubon.org/gala or call 520-209-1812.

Liz Harrison
Nature Shop Volunteer

Website

FOAC website can be accessed by scanning the QR code here. The web address is also located on the bottom of page 2 & 3 of the newsletter.

The website has the key history of FOAC & Agua Caliente Park, current significant issues affecting the Park, and current events for the month. You can also send an email to any board member and find links to other related websites.



Postcards

FOAC sells Agua Caliente Postcards at the Audubon Shop in the Ranch House. This is a great way to take home memorable pictures of the Park. We appreciate your support of *the Friends of Agua Caliente*.

