

WELLSPRING NEWS

Winter 2016

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

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Dear Friends of Agua Caliente,

This past fiscal year, because of your generous donations and your new and renewed memberships, the Friends of Agua Caliente continued to help Pima County bring several educational programs to the park. For the third year, we provided speaker compensation for the popular Agua Caliente Park Lecture Series. Your contributions also provided funding for teaching tools and supplies for a variety of wonderful school and park interpretive programs such as the Teacher Wetlands & Wildlife Workshops, History Day, the Nuts about Nature Pre-school Hour, the Sonoran Desert Kids Club and other outdoor adventures. Your donations paid for a professional hanging system in the Ranch House Art Gallery and installation of a bench that was placed along the path to the second pond.

Although we are disappointed that the November 2015 bond initiative to support the park and restore the pond systems did not pass, we are very excited about the opportunities this coming year to help maintain and improve the excellent educational programs in place at the park.

Among other things, our budget this fiscal year includes funding for arts and crafts supplies and teaching aids for the regular programs already mentioned, digital cameras for the new Pollinators and Wetlands Wildlife

school program and supplies and payment of fees for the internationally acclaimed, 2½ day school program for 4th & 5th graders called Earthkeepers. We will also provide teaching materials for the Living River of Words Youth Arts and Science residencies at the park. This program encourages kids to explore how water moves through the landscape and the connections that all living things have to water. Further, we will again contribute teaching supplies and instructor lunches for the 4th grade History Day. Lastly, we are pleased to continue to support the speakers for the Lecture Series which began in November and continues through February. You can find details of the upcoming lectures on our website.

The end of the current year and coming of a new year encourage reflection on the things we are grateful for. For me and my family, one of these things is our proximity to Agua Caliente Park. I hope 2016 brings you, your family and friends many things to be grateful for. If you have not already, I hope you can enjoy the guided walk around the park grounds and historic building and participate in some of the other enjoyable and enlightening programs offered at the Park.

Thank you for your continued Support!

Peggy Denny

Annual Meeting

The Friends of Agua Caliente Annual Member and Supporter meeting will be **Monday January 25th, 2016 at 7 PM** in the Bunkhouse (brown building near north end of parking lot). Kerry Baldwin, *Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation (NRPR) Director* will provide an update on Park plans in light of the recent Bond failure. We will also vote on the FOAC Slate of Officers and Board Members.

This meeting is open to all Members/Supporters.

Nominations

Slate for FOAC Board Positions:
Vice President: Maura Brackett
(second term)

Treasurer: A couple members are interested.

Board Member Renewal (2016 – 2019)

Pete Filiatrault
Sandy Sarah
Vaughn Johnson
Maura Brackett
E Linwood “Lin” Smith

New Board Members

Jan “Janet” Baker
Cass “Catherine” Bartlett

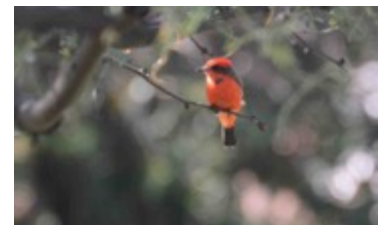


Photo by Susan Knoll

From the Bunkhouse: The Flying V

When my parents came to Tucson to look for a place to buy, they temporarily stayed at the “Flying V Guest Ranch”. The Flying V is now part of Lowes Ventana Canyon Resort. While they were staying there, they became friends with a gal named Hope, who was in charge of housekeeping. She visited us at the Ranch often.

One evening, my folks were sitting in their barrel chairs in the living room near the bay window overlooking the lake when they heard a knock on the window. They looked out and saw Hope. My Dad opened the front door to let her in.



Ranch House

She informed him that she had a slight problem. Her boyfriend, who had a little too much to drink, had failed to negotiate the little bridge across the creek (flowing from the spring). This was our driveway. You drove across the bridge and right up to the front door. We all walked out toward the bridge and all you could

see was a single light shining toward the house. When we got up to the bridge, there was Hope’s boyfriend’s car, lying on its side in the creek. Thank goodness no one was hurt. As you can imagine, Hope was very embarrassed. Her boyfriend was beyond embarrassment. We turned off the car lights and ignition and invited them into the house. After several cups of coffee my Dad gave them a ride back to the Flying V. The next day, a wrecker lifted the car out of the creek. It was not seriously damaged.

That bridge is now the footbridge you walk across to get from the entrance area to the house. Now the driveway goes around the spring to the parking lot.

*Pete Filiatrault
The ghost of Agua Caliente*



Main Pond (June 2013)

Fundraising

Agua Caliente Park is a contemplative Park, a place to enjoy the pond, trails, birds and much more.

In support of the Park, we plan to prepare a design for a small contemplative garden on the north side. This would be presented to grantors for funding after approval by Pima County NRPR.



Agua Caliente Park North

Pima County NRPR has

also requested additional sign bases with frames throughout the Park along with a plan to replace outdated frames on existing bases. The frames and bases are crafted by a local Artist out of forged hammered steel. The Park currently is using two of these frames purchased a couple years ago. One is on the north side of the Bunkhouse and the other is located at the south end of the main pond.

If you would like to help us purchase the frames/bases or additional benches, we would love to have your help. See the newsletter insert for details. For additional information, please contact Jim Knoll at info@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org. Thank you for your continued support of Agua Caliente Park.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in () below

Peggy Denny, **President**

([Website](#))

Maura Brackett, **Vice President**

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

Sylvia Olberding, **Secretary**

Peggy Denny, **Treasurer**

Jan Baker

Cass (Catherine) Bartlett

Pete Filiatrault

([Co-Founder](#))

Chuck Ford

([County Liaison](#))

Judy Gray

Vaughn Johnson

Jim Knoll

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

Joyce Roughton

Sandy Sarah

([Co-Founder](#))

Linwood Smith

Board Member email addresses are:

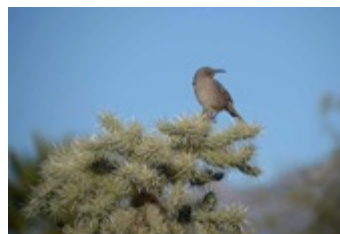
FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org

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).

Thank You to FOAC

Pima County NRPR would like to thank the Friends of Agua Caliente and all the generous supporters for the funding assistance for our environmental education and park interpretive programs. We could not offer what we do without your help!!



Thrasher

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

Two-Tailed Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly is Arizona's State Butterfly.

Description: 3 1/2" to 5 1/8" long. Two tails on each wing. It has yellow wings with narrow lined stripes. Hind wing edge above and below lined with bright blue patches, black border spotted with yellow and orange between border spots. Each wing points outward in a series of partial tails, one long & one medium. The female has broader stripes, more blue on hind wings & an orange cast.

Life Cycle: Lays yellow, green eggs. Caterpillar has yellow, black-rimmed eyespots on black-banded hump. It becomes reddish before pupating. Feeds on various plants, cherries, and ash.

Swallowtails love canyons, gardens, and moist parts of dry areas. They glide past hikers and are easy to approach. The

western Swallowtail of Arizona & New Mexico only has one tail on each hind wing. Swallowtails are a challenge to identify, as there are 30 species in North America.

Gila Woodpeckers are a favorite bird of the Sonoran Desert. Like the Elf Owl and Gilded Flicker, they love to nest in picked out holes in giant Saguaros, giving us "Saguaro Boots" when the cactus dies.



Photo by Susan Knoll

Description: 8" – 10" in length. Striped with black and white above, buff below and on neck & head. Male has small red cap.

Female has none. White wing patches are seen when they fly. Habitat: They nest in desert scrub, Saguaros, or Mesquite trees. They lay 3-5 white eggs in trees and Saguaro Cactus holes. You will hear them pecking on metal pipes and house fascia, trying to attract females.

Found in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, & southern California.

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

The 2016 membership year is underway 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 to all of you. As of January 1st, 2016 we have a total of 162 supporters (members and donors).

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

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 can't do what we do without great members and donors!

Jim Knoll

New Online Registration

Pima County NRPR now has an online system for program registration and Ramada reservations. Along with the new process there is a nominal fee to attend many of the activities. In response to feedback, we also initiated an annual membership pass. Once you create a profile, you may purchase a \$50 annual membership, which allows you to attend activities free of charge or at a reduced cost. This is great for recurring events such as Bird Walks or the Sunday Lecture series and will provide significant savings. You can also select an event and pay only for it.

This represents a major change. The website to register is: www.pima.gov/nrpr. For questions or comments, please contact me at 520-615-7855, ext. 0 or Wendy.Burroughs@pima.gov.

Wendy Burroughs

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751 - 2005

Annual Meeting January 25, 2016
7 PM in the Bunkhouse

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

Tucson Audubon promotes the protection and stewardship of southeast Arizona's biological diversity through the study and enjoyment of birds and the places they live. The shop is a great place for birding essentials items, books, optics, natural history items, children's books and games, and jewelry. Next time you need the perfect gift, come check us out! Proceeds benefit Tucson Audubon programs. Nature Shop volunteers provide a wealth of information to visitors and we have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Whatever your interest, we have a role for you and we can always use more volunteers. Email volunteer@tucsonaudubon.org or call 520-209-1811 to learn more.

Join the weekly Pima County bird walk on Thursday mornings and shop afterward and receive a 10% discount on all items. Available in the shop is Tucson Audubon's latest edition of

finding birds in southeast Arizona. This is your best source for detailed information in planning bird watching adventures throughout southeast Arizona.

In February, be a part of an elegant tradition at Tucson Audubon's Eighth Annual Gala featuring a celebration of the National Park Centennial Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at Hilton, El Conquistador Resort. Our keynote speaker will be Nancy Laney, a native Tucsonan and former Executive Director of the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Her talk is titled: *The evolution of a Desert City: The Importance of Saguaro National Park to Tucson's Past, Present and Future*. For more information go to <http://tucsonaudubon.org/gala>. Winter Shop hours are Thursday (9-2:30), Friday (10-2:30), and Saturday (10-1:30).

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*.



FRIENDS OF AGUA CALIENTE FUNDRAISING

Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) has requested new sign bases and frames to improve the functionality and durability of existing frames and add additional informational signs throughout Agua Caliente Park. This expansion will significantly enhance the experience and education of visitors to the Park. These beautifully designed pieces are crafted by a local Tucson artist out of forged hammered steel. The frames are sealed to protect the actual signs from the weather. The intent is to purchase five new sign bases & frames (\$1,500 each) and six new sign frames to install on existing bases (\$500 each). **The Friends of Agua Caliente are requesting donations to cover the cost of this initiative.** If you are interested in supporting this effort, please complete the form below and mail with a check to the address listed. **We appreciate your consideration and support.**



Pima County NRPR has also requested two additional benches to be used around Pond 2. Pond 2 is the next pond beyond the Mesquite Bosque to the west. The benches would be the same style that are currently located throughout the park. Each bench costs \$1,800. An “In Loving Memory of _____” acknowledgement will be engraved along the frame at the end of the bench. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please complete the form below and mail with a check to the address listed. **We appreciate your consideration and support.**



These gifts are a great way to memorialize a loved one. Donors sponsoring the entire cost of an item will be acknowledged with a plaque attached to the sign base or frame as appropriate or with an engraving on the bench as mentioned above listing their name or other appropriate message. Donors sponsoring a portion of the item cost will be acknowledged by a thank you letter.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

(make checks payable to FOAC or Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. and mail to Friends of Agua Caliente, PO Box 32005, Tucson AZ 85751-2005)

- Sign Base/Frame (\$1,500) Sign Frame Only (\$500) Bench (\$1,800) Plaque
 Other Amount _____

Message: _____

Bench message: In loving memory of _____