

# WELLSPRING NEWS

## October 2006

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

### From the President:

2006 has generated some interesting developments at Agua Caliente Park. The bridge to the island at pond one, which is currently unusable, will be replaced in 2008. This should please, and be welcome news based on the inquiries by Ranch House visitors during the year.

The educational events offered by the Park under the direction of Wendy Burroughs will increase during 2007. They will also offer information about the early

Indian Tribes (Hohokam) from 300 BC living in the area. Additionally, the hostile actions of the Apache tribe during the 1800's will be discussed.

We will also be putting on our third annual Pancake Breakfast in April 2007. We would love to have volunteer help with our activities and love to have you as members of FOAC. We look forward to continued support by visitors and volunteers to help achieve our goals.

Dick Watts

### Gaslight Theatre Christmas Show

Join us for some Christmas fun at the Gaslight Theatre performance of "Christmas in the Big Apple" on December 14, 2006 at 8:30 PM.

It's Christmas time in New York City, but no one seems to be in the Holiday mood. The only hope left to bring back the Christmas Cheer is a young orphan girl and her belief in a magical Santa Claus suit. With the help of her "Secret Santa", she brings the holiday spirit back to the Big Apple.

Tickets are limited. Prices are: Adults—\$24.50; Seniors/Military—\$22.50; and Children—\$11.00. A portion of each ticket is tax deductible. See the FOAC website for additional details and reservation form: [www.geocities.com/fo\\_agua\\_caliente](http://www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente). Send an email to Jim Knoll at [foac@earthlink.net](mailto:foac@earthlink.net) or call 520-760-7609 to ensure seating is still available. It should be a really great show!!

### Membership Meeting planned for January 22nd, 2007

What a great opportunity to become involved in supporting this wonderful oasis in our own backyard called Agua Caliente Park. **Join us for our annual membership meeting on January 22, 2007 at 7 PM in the Bunkhouse at Agua Caliente Park.** Help chart the future of the Park while supporting current activities. FOAC is involved in all aspects of the Park and works along side Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreations personnel.

There are many exciting opportunities from assisting the staff with school groups to volunteering as Docents.

FOAC is also a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and any contributions are tax deductible. Why not put your hard-earned dollars to work supporting a worthwhile project in your own neighborhood and receive a tax break at the same time. Cash donations can be mailed to: FOAC, PO Box 32005, Tucson AZ 85751-2005 or visit the FOAC website for more details.

### Agua Caliente Park



Photo by Susan Knoll

Ranch House

# From the Bunkhouse: Living on a Working Ranch

Living on a working ranch, there was much to do every day. Of course, I loved it because I was living the life of a cowboy. There were horses and cattle to feed, stalls to be cleaned, and cows to be herded. It was a great life. I enjoyed going out at night, walking down to one of the lower lakes and just sitting on the bank and listening to all the sounds of nature. We had abundant wildlife of all types that came to drink out of the lakes. There was really no danger, but I did carry a rifle in case I came across a rattle snake....which did happen from time to time. As we were far from Tucson at the time, the skies were dark and you could see a sky full of stars without any interference from the city lights.

The family would often sit around the swimming pool with the lights off, search for different star constellations, and watch for shooting stars. We would talk about

what needed to be done the next day and what was going on with everyone. It was very relaxing.

We always looked forward to the summer monsoon. It would usually rain in late afternoon and by early evening the skies would clear up and the humidity would drop, making it very pleasant to sit outside. Of course, we did not have a TV yet so we just enjoyed talking or reading. If we had heavy rains, we could hear the Agua Caliente Creek rumbling up in Agua Caliente Canyon an hour or so before we saw any water in the creek. We would drive down to the road to see the water come gushing across it. After a rain, when the Agua Caliente was still running, we would often hear a knock on our door. It would be someone who tried to cross the wash and got stuck. We would get our tractor and drive down to the wash. If they were not too far in and the water not too deep, we would hook the chain to the

frame and then pull the car out of the wash. Most people were very grateful. Once we pulled out a man who had a brand new Jeep Pickup with 4-wheel drive. We went back to the house. The next morning all you could see was the roof of his pickup. I guess he thought since he had a 4-wheel drive, he could get across that wash. Of course, the fact that he had been drinking was probably a factor. He had to get a county road grater to pull his truck out. I'm sure it cost him a pretty penny to fix his truck.

The Tanque Verde area was small and friendly. I still have a few friends that I grew up with that still live in the area.

I really enjoyed my years there and was very sad when my parents sold the Ranch. They were not in good health and since all the kids moved away, the Ranch was just too much work for them.

*Pete Filiatrault  
The Ghost of Agua Caliente*

## 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

## Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in ( ) below the name

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

## 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. Check website for current times.

**Nature Walks every Saturday**  
Normally 10 am & 1 pm.

**Wildlife at the Park**  
Watching wildlife through the spotting scope usually once/month.

### Ranch House Gallery:

**Sept 27-Nov 14:** Southwestern League of Fine Arts Exhibit

**Nov 15-Jan 3:** Kathleen Lewis—  
"Abstract Nature Unbound".

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

# Nominating Committee

We wish to thank the members of this year's Nominating Committee, Chuck Ford, along with Judy Gray, Paula Stoner, and Sally Danielson, Chairman, for their time and effort in interviewing members to provide nominees for the Board of Directors and working to provide a slate of officers and committee chairs for 2007. Annually this is a very time consuming enterprise in an effort to find the best qualified among us to serve in very special ways.

At the September 22 Board of Directors meeting, the Board ratified the nominations of Peter "Pete" Filiatrault, Sandy Sarah, and Forrest "Bud" Seaman who are renewing their Board commitments for another three-year term ending in 2010 and voted to nominate Mary Jane Dyson for a three-year term ending in 2010 and Judy Gray for an unexpired two-year term ending in 2009. With these nominees, the Board will be at its full eleven member complement.

Additional names of candidates for Directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signa-

tures of at least 5 percent of the qualified members of the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee within ten (10) days after this notice has been given of the names nominated. If no petition is filed within the designated period, the nominations shall be closed and the nominated slate of candidates shall be declared elected by the Board of Directors at the regular November Board Meeting.

The Board also voted to accept the committee's recommendations for the 2007 Officers and Committee Chairs. They are as follows:

## Officers

**President:** Dick Watts  
**Vice-President:** Chuck Ford  
**Secretary:** Francie Hilkemeyer  
**Treasurer:** Pete Filiatrault

## Committee Chairs

**County Liaison:** Chuck Ford & Dick Watts  
**Donors Wall/Walk:** Bud Seaman  
**Fundraising:** Sally Danielson  
"Pancakes in the Park"  
Subcommittee: Jim Hilkemeyer

**Historian:** Paula Stoner  
**Membership/Volunteer:** Mike Deal  
**Newsletter/Website:** Jim Knoll  
**Nominating:** Sandy Sarah

In other related business, recommended by the Nominating Committee, the Board voted to expand its membership to thirteen (13) Board Members starting in 2008.

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve in 2007 and here's to another active and productive year for the Friends of Agua Caliente.

Sally Danielson

## 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 the newsletter or FOAC announcements. 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.

# 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 make the difference at this historic time in the life of our or-

ganization and the Park. 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.

Over two-thirds of the 2005 membership responded to appeals during the 2006 Membership drive. Nineteen new memberships (family and individual) were received. This amounts to an increase of five voting members compared to one year ago.

The 2007 Membership Drive will begin in November.

Family Memberships:	35
Individual Memberships:	8
Total Memberships:	43

Voting Members:	78
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**Welcome new members.**

Mike Deal

# FOAC

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

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## Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

I'm Becky, the new Tucson Audubon Society's Shop manager at Agua Caliente Park. I've had the good fortune to meet some of you "Friends" of ACP in the few months since I've taken over the reigns of the shop from Vivian Mackinnon. Prior to coming to Tucson, I lived and worked nearly 20 years in Mulegé, Baja California Sur as a kayak guide, camp site owner, and manager of a natural history book store, so my experiences in the Sonora Desert make me a good fit for my work and I am really thrilled to be here.

When I drive into the park, I am always astonished by my immediate need to turn the radio off, roll down the windows, slow down to a snails pace and gaze out at the incredible view of green grass, water rushes and palm trees, mesquites, and the

changing colors of the Catalina Mountains in the background with the blue of the foreground pond. I know that the blue heron is out there somewhere stalking an unsuspecting fish and the peregrine falcon is probably sitting on a high limb having breakfast in the serene Bosque behind the Rose cottage. What a gift to work here, and though we "birders" can get a bit flighty about our favorite avocations, a place like Agua Caliente Park gives me a better understanding of the relationship between all we see in one of the most diverse habitat 100 acres can host. Are you curious about all this? As members of FOAC, you definitely are, as well as very proactive about your responsibility to attend to your "back yard". The Tucson Audubon Nature Shop is here to serve you and the community with great reference material to quench your curiosity about the Sono-

ran Desert, its birds, mammals, the little crawly critters and the swimming beings. We put emphasis on finding exciting material for parents and children and stocking engaging gifts that will be fun and educational as well.

Tuesday morning bird walks continue to be lively affairs and we always have one or two new folks come to share the enthusiasm and expertise of the more experienced birders. The relationship between the Pima County Parks and Recreation staff and Tucson Audubon Society is a healthy one and we will be working together to expand programs and support one another to make all our visitors time here an enriching one. Stop in and say hi!

Becky Aparicio  
Manager Tucson Audubon Nature Shop  
Agua Caliente Park

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 9:30 am—3:30 pm