

# WELLSPRING NEWS

June 2009

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

## From the President:

Friends of Agua Caliente.

I hope you have a great summer and choose to spend some relaxing time at your favorite park — Agua Caliente of course. No better way to cool down than hanging out around the water.

We've been busy at FOAC working with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) on some ideas to improve the park.

FOAC will purchase a bench in honor of one of our long-term Board

Members (Audrey Watts) who passed away a few years ago. She loved Agua Caliente Park and worked so hard to raise funds and make sure the park was developed with the vision of our members in mind. Look for it soon along the edge of Pond 1. FOAC also plans to purchase a permanent spotting scope for patron use along Pond 1. We still have some details to work out with NRPR, so look for that sometime this winter. The scope will

bring a whole new dimension for kids and adults, allowing them to see the waterfowl and other wildlife up close and personal.

Unfortunately, we have not seen any movement on a new bridge to the island. Pima County still does not have the funds, but we continue to work with them to keep the project alive and explore all available options. If you know someone with some significant funds that would like to contribute to the project, please discuss it with them and let

us know (foac@q.com). It will take some significant contributions to complete this project, Pima County is still about \$100,000 short (\$40,000 was spent on engineering/design).

We will also be changing our FOAC website this summer. If you go to the current site, you should be redirected. Visit it often to see what is happening with FOAC and Agua Caliente Park. Thank you and see you at the Park.

Jim Knoll

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

**Ever want to get involved in a special project supporting your community and see the fruits of your labor?**

FOAC could sure use your help. We have several openings on the Board of Directors and could use some help in several of our standing committees, in particular fundraising. New and fresh ideas keep us moving forward and in the right direction. No matter what your talents, we'd love to have you an active part of the Friends of Agua Caliente. We routinely meet with Pima County

to discuss ideas and ensure their vision and projects matches the community and FOAC. What an opportunity to help shape one of the most unique Parks in Pima County. Please contact any Board Member or drop me a note at foac@q.com.

Jim Knoll



Phainopepla

## National Registration Nomination Update

Pima County's consultant, Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), has been working steadily on the nomination. SRI completed the nomination and submitted it to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO has approved the proposal and forwarded it to keeper of the National Register in Washington DC. We are awaiting their response and anticipating approval.

Simon Herbert  
Program Coordinator

FOAC will let you know when we hear the results. Watch the website for any updates. Having Agua Caliente Park as part of the National Registry will ensure protection and future enjoyment for generations to come.

## From the Bunkhouse: Agua Caliente Ranch

In the past I have mainly shared my remembrances of life on the 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 1873, Pete 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 grove 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 Tuesdays 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 bath house have been added. Give the ranch a visit and recommend it to your friends."

**Pete Filiatrault**  
**"The ghost of Agua Caliente"**



### 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](http://www.geocities.com/fo_agua_caliente)

#### Wake Up with The Birds

**7:30 — 9:00 am** (Every Tuesday)

#### Nature Walks/other events

(most Saturdays)

**Historic Speaker Series** — Taking the summer off, but will be back this Fall

#### Ranch House Gallery:

**May 13—July 8:** Through the Lens: Wildlife and Nature Images from the Southwest

**July 9—August 5:** Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Exhibit  
To volunteer at Agua Caliente Park with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, call (520) 615-7855.

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

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in ( ) below the name

Jim Knoll, <b>President</b> ( <b>Newsletter, Website</b> )	760-7609	sjknoll@q.com or foac@q.com
Chuck Ford, <b>Vice President</b> ( <b>Park Liaison</b> )	748-7612	cfordjr@juno.com
Peter Filiatrault, <b>Treasurer</b>	577-8202	azghost@comcast.net
Mike Deal ( <b>Membership/Volunteer</b> )	749-1984	miguelitodeal@aol.com
Donna DeHaan	760-1331	donnadehaan@msn.com
Mary Jane Dyson	749-5245	afroirish@msn.com
Judy Gray ( <b>Donors Wall/Walk</b> )	749-1159	
Lynda Nash ( <b>Fundraising</b> )	751-7478	carolyndanash@yahoo.com
Sandy Sarah	885-7466	sandyjsarah@yahoo.com
Paula Stoner ( <b>Historian</b> )	591-0764	pjluvscky@gmail.com
Richard Watts ( <b>Park Liaison</b> )	529-4637	

## NEW RESIDENTS OF AGUA CALIENTE PARK

We have new residents at the Park. Our Great Horned owl pair had three babies this Spring. They were quite a sight all nested in their tree. Everyone seems to be doing just fine! (photos by Susan Knoll)



Birding has been excellent this spring with plenty to choose from.



Join us for one of the weekly Tues morning bird walks to experience Agua Caliente Park birding first-hand.

See you at the Park!!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ever get thirsty at the Park and wish you had some refreshing water, soda, or Gatorade? Well, you are in luck.....There are two vending machines adjacent to the restroom facilities at the entrance to the park. Why are these so special? FOAC receives 25 percent of every sales. So, next time you want to quench your thirst, check them out!!

## HELP PROTECT AGUA CALIENTE PARK

We all enjoy the beautiful spring, the ponds, and abundant waterfowl and wildlife. Please respect the off limits areas (in particular the area where the spring emerges from underground as that is especially vulnerable). If you see others where they should not be, politely advise them of the "off limits" or let one of the Park Employees know. It takes all of us to protect the Park we love. Thank you. .

## 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. 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. The website address will change this summer, so if you can't find it, search Agua Caliente Park Tucson or send me an email and I'll let you know the new address. Thanks.

Jim Knoll

## 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 2009 Membership Drive concluded in May.

**Welcome to our new members and thank you to our renewing members.**

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

### Current membership roster:

Family Memberships:	44
Individual Memberships:	27

**Total Memberships: 71**

**Voting Members: 115**  
(1 for individual / 2 for family)

Mike Deal  
Membership Chair

# FOAC

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

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Organization  
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Mailing Label

## Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

“Summer is **i-cumen** in “so says Shakespeare and sleepier times are coming to the old Pueblo. It’s not quite siesta, but a time to refresh by slowing down. Lots of folks are planning on vacations and the tradition in past years has been to escape the summer heat by indulging in beach resorts and cooler travels. Tucson Audubon Society’s nature shop at Agua Caliente Park will not have a vacation, though we will be cutting back to one day a week in July, August and September. The bird walks on Tuesday mornings are a great tradition too and the shop will be open to continue to provide you with excellent books, gifts and nature related children’s items.

My duties as Manager of the shop have been expanded to include Volunteer Coordinator for Tucson Audubon Society. A literal army of volunteers is necessary to run our non-profit, giving our staff the time to manage many responsibilities. If any of you would be interested in giving time to an outstanding organization do come and see me or give me a call. Tucson Audubon has opportunities for men and women with many skills and we’d like to give you an opportunity to share our conservation and recreation goals. Have a great summer and please visit us on Bird walk day on Tuesdays.

Becky Aparicio  
760-7881

### Anna’s Hummingbird Nest



Photo by Susan Knoll