

WELLSPRING NEWS

Summer 2017

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

Tucson, Arizona

From the President

Dear Friends of Agua Caliente,

Thanks to your support, membership and donations continue to grow. The *FOAC website* and *Facebook* social media outreach have greatly contributed to providing you information about our activities (search Friends of Agua Caliente Tucson for the Facebook page). In turn, this growth makes it possible for *FOAC* to continue support to Pima County programs and improvements.

Action was just taken to update our mission and goals to clarify the *FOAC* role in support of Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation (*NRPR*) for our “Oasis in the Desert”. Our mission is to continue to support the preservation of the historic Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park through advocacy, education, and community development and in partnership with Pima County *NRPR*.

In order to implement our Mission, we have adopted the following Goals: 1. Preserve the Park and buildings designated on the *National Register of Historic Places*; 2. Maintain membership and donor support to ensure sufficient funding is available; 3. Create a comprehensive multi-year fundraising strategy; 4. Maintain successful relations with *NRPR* and Pima County representatives; and 5. Maintain an informational relationship with the Pima County

community.

FOAC members were pleased to attend the April 7, 2017 dedication of the second Agua Caliente pond. One speaker spoke of the “pond at Agua



Steve Christie, Pima County District 4 Supervisor

Caliente as a beautiful and tranquil high Sonoran Desert Oasis”. *FOAC* donors have contributed benches along the path and on the island of the renovated pond.

Progress continues on planning for the *FOAC* contribution to the proposed Birding and Nature Trail in the NE sector of the Park near the Bunkhouse. Discussions are underway concerning incorporation of a Ramada. See “From the Bunkhouse” for additional details.

FOAC is in the process of preparing the Annual Work Plan (July 2017 – June 2018). This is the second year of the collaborative effort with *NRPR* which outlines *FOAC* support to environmental education and interpretive programs as well as special projects like the Birding and Nature Trail.

There continues to be strong community support for our Board of Directors. This is evidenced by appointment of a new member to the Board – Jerry Martin. Welcome Jerry.

I want to reiterate thanks for all members and supporters who make the role of *FOAC* possible.

Maura Brackett



Agua Caliente Park Pond 2

Summer Events

Thursday morning Bird Walk
7:30 am

Full Moon
Nature Walk
July 9

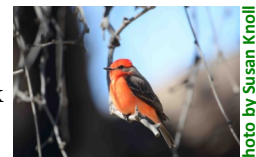


Photo by Susan Knoll

Lizards: July 12 & 19; Aug 9 & 19
Bugs & Black lights: July 22
Water Walk: July 25; Aug 29

Additional information for all events and link for registration is on the *FOAC* website under “Events”.

From the Bunkhouse: Nature & Birding Trail

The Friends have been working with Pima County NRPR on the design of a nature and birding trail to better utilize the northeast section of the park. Currently, there are very few amenities in that area and it is popular for birds to hang out and nest. The



NE Corner of Park, near Brown Bunkhouse

plan is to put down a path amongst the existing trees, install some additional plantings, and a couple of benches to sit and enjoy the surrounding area, listen to the birds, or just relax and read. The plan also includes a Ramada in the open area to the north. Right

now, that portion is on hold until the design is worked out to minimize digging of footings and other soil disruption. There is a



Cooper Hawk & Chick

Photo by Susan Knoll

potential for cultural artifacts in the area, so the plan will need to account for that. The entire portion (Ramada, water/electric, decomposed granite path, plantings, and benches) totals \$57,600. We will initially exclude the Ramada (\$40,000) and electric/water trenching (\$5,000), so the total we need to begin raising is \$12,600. Of that total, we will plan for two backless benches @ \$1,200 each. Pending final approval by Pima County (this summer), we appreciate any donations for this effort to enable us to begin moving forward.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. Board of Directors

Standing Committee Chairpersons annotated in () below

Maura Brackett, **President**

(Fundraising, Nominations)

Jan Baker, **Vice President**

Sylvia Olberding, **Secretary**

Jim Knoll, **Treasurer**

(Newsletter, Website, Membership)

Tina Baker

(Facebook, Website)

Cass (Catherine) Bartlett

Misha Farinech

Pete Filiatrault

(Co-Founder)

Judy Gray

Vaughn Johnson

(Fundraising)

Jerry Martin

Joyce Roughton

Sandy Sarah

(Co-Founder)

Linwood Smith

(County Liaison)



Great Blue Heron

Board Member email addresses are:

FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org

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 website, or scan the QR Code. We will post current events & pictures so please “like, comment, and share”.



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. We will be redesigning the website over the next year.

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.



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!!

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

The Mountain Lion. It's Spring in the Sonoran Desert. We were on a picnic at Agua Caliente Park. A man was giving a demonstration to identify animal footprints with a large magnifying glass. The first prints of a lion were going toward the main pond. The second set of prints were leaving the Park. Both sets were different lions.

Mountain Lion has been sighted around Sabino High School neighborhoods and Agua Caliente Park. Lions have habits much like your house cat. They sharpen their claws on tree trunks by standing on their hind legs reaching upward some 8 feet. Their length measures 59" to 108" long, nose to tail.

The cat walks neatly and has a fairly straight trail, showing no nail prints. Dropping of dung are covered by scraping dirt & rubbish to

cover it. They leave strong scratch marks unlike domestic cats that do not deliberately cover it.

Lions feed primarily on large mammals especially deer, but also coyotes, porcupines, birds, mice, rabbits, raccoons, & Big Horn sheep. A male lion can travel on a hunt 25 miles in one night. A lion will kill one deer a week. This carnivorous animal covers the meat it does not eat immediately with leaves and will return several times later to eat.

Usually silent, this cat produces many calls like screams, hisses, & growls. A baby lion sounds like a human baby crying or chirping whistles. Most young are born midsummer with 1 or 2 cubs. They breed at 2 1/2 years and generally every other year thereafter. Cubs stay with Mom 1 1/2 years, while

she teaches them to hunt and survive. Mating lasts for two weeks. They live in canyon caves or any natural large den it finds.

Please be careful and alert to any wild animal that acts strange or comes at you. Get Away! Pima County has a strong Rabid alert this summer.

Have a wonderful summer!!

Judy Gray, Naturalist

Volunteer

Agua Caliente Park is seeking volunteers! Do you love the Park? Enjoy talking with people from all over the world? Then consider volunteering. There are several opportunities available with lots of flexibility.

Ranch House Volunteer: Greet visitors and lead informal tours of the historic Ranch House for small groups, individuals, and families.

Park Tour Guide Volunteer: Lead hour-long scheduled outdoor tours that include the spring, Ranch House, Rose Cottage, and Bunkhouse, as well as some of the ornamental plantings. All volunteers will receive appropriate training and free access to the majority of our public programs and activities (a \$50 annual value).

Email education@pima.gov or call (520) 615-7855, ext. 4 for additional information.



Photo by Susan Knoll

2017 Great Horned Owl Chick

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente!

The 2017 membership year is coming to a close. I want to once again thank all of 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 purchase within their budget cycle is tremendous and we owe it to all of you. As of June 1, 2017 we have a total of 230 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 cannot 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 inspires people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend. The Tucson Audubon Nature Shop inside the Ranch House at Agua Caliente Park is a great place to shop for birding essential items, books, optics, natural history items, children's books and games, and gifts. Next time you need the perfect gift, come check us out! Proceeds from the Nature Shop benefit Tucson Audubon programs. Pima County generously donates space in the Ranch House for our Nature Shop. Nature Shop volunteers provide a wealth of information to visitors to the shop. For the summer, June to September, the shop is open on Thursdays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Join the weekly Pima County Wake Up with the Birds bird walk on Thursday mornings and shop afterward to receive a 10% discount on all items. Available in the shop is a hummingbird hotspot start-

er kit. As part of Tucson Audubon's **Year of the Hummingbird**, we've



Hummingbird feeding chick

Photo by Susan Knoll

made it easy to create your very own Hummingbird Hotspot by putting all the essential items together. Stop by the shop and pick one up. Go on a Hummingbird Safari in August by joining the fun at the **Southeast Arizona Birding Festival**, August 10—13, 2017. Get to know our friendly local birding community and the dazzling array of birding experiences accessible from Tucson! For more information on the festival, visit tucsonaudubon.org/festival. We look forward to your visits to our shop.

Liz Harrison
Nature Shop Volunteer

FOAC 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*.

