

WELLSPRING NEWS

Winter 2014

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

Tucson, Arizona

From the President:

Dear Friends,

From the Board of Directors, we hope you had a great 2013 and a safe and prosperous 2014.

As I'm sure you are aware, the ponds at Agua Caliente Park continue to be distressed. The



Photo by Susan Knoll

stream is still not flowing and, although Pima County is pumping well water to augment the main pond, it is insufficient to counteract the water loss. In our current environment, the only likely way to save the main pond is to completely redesign it to be more water efficient.

Pima County is in the process of developing a **Bond Election proposal**, currently slated for 2015. Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) has prepared a proposal to redesign the main pond at Agua Caliente Park. The redesign will include lining the pond, reducing overall size from ~3.5 acres to ~2 acres to reduce the water requirement, re-contour the bottom to accommodate waterfowl, fish, wildlife, and reinforce the shoreline to minimize erosion.

The redesign should reduce the water requirement by 70 percent.

There will likely be more proposals than will be allowed for a Bond Election. As a result, **the Bond Advisory Committee is scheduled to consider each bond project proposal by category. The Parks & Recreation category is scheduled for April 25, 2014 at 8 a.m. at the Hotel Tucson City Center InnSuites, 475 N. Granada Avenue.** FOAC will attend and will likely provide a presentation supporting Agua Caliente Park. We would love to have as many supporters as possible attend and will send out an email & Facebook reminder a couple weeks in advance. For more information, go to www.pima.gov/bonds. The upcoming schedule is listed under Future Bond Election Planning. Once there, select Parks and Recreation to see a list of proposed projects. A description of Agua Caliente Park Pond Restoration project is listed.

The Friends of Agua Caliente firmly supports the restoration of the Park pond infrastructure and believes it is the only way to sustain this infrastructure into the future. We hope you will support this worthwhile endeavor as well. Thank you!!

Jim Knoll

FOAC 20th Anniversary

The Board is busy getting ready to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the *Friends of Agua Caliente*. We welcome all members and donors to a special celebration on Saturday, February 8th from 2 until 4 pm on the beautiful patio of the Ranch House. Entertainment will be provided by Midnight, the jazz combo from Catalina Foothills High School. There will also be a few special door prizes. We look forward to meeting you and thanking you for your support. We will have a brief informational meeting mid-way through the gathering so that we can update you on the state of the pond and the potential bond issue. Save the date! Hope to see you there!

Lynda Nash
Maura Bracket



Photo by Susan Knoll

Great Blue Heron at Agua Caliente Park.
January 3, 2014

From the Bunkhouse: Our New Home

When we first moved to the Agua Caliente Ranch, no one had lived there on a permanent basis for several years. As a result, we had all sorts of abundant wildlife in our yard every night, including mountain lions, bobcats, javelina, and the most bothersome of all, coyotes. Consequently, we kept a loaded shotgun in the entryway. When the Coyotes got too close to the house or were making too much racket, we would fire the shotgun into the air to scare them off.

The bridge you now use to walk over the stream by the spring was our driveway. You drove across the bridge and up to the house or went around the patio of the house to the bunkhouse, shops, barns, and corrals. Between what is now Roger Road and the little stream was a very dense Mesquite grove.....so dense that you could not even see through it. One night the coyotes were coming into the yard making a lot of racket. Our dogs got loose and chased them back into the Mesquite thicket. My dad heard

the dogs barking and the coyotes growling and thought that his dogs were being torn apart. He took off running down the driveway, across the little bridge and plunged into the Mesquite thicket to save his dogs. He had to get down on his hands and knees to crawl through the Mesquites. He finally found a place where he could stand up. The dogs and coyotes were still barking. He shined his flashlight around and at first saw nothing. Then all of a sudden, he saw an animal running toward him being chased by the dogs. The animal saw him and jumped up into his arms to get away from the dogs. My Dad looked and discovered he had a bobcat in his arms. He let out a scream and the bobcat looked at my Dad and jumped down and ran off as fast as he could. My Mother, hearing the scream from my Dad, grabbed the shotgun and fired into the air. Suddenly, there was dead silence. My Mother kept yelling "Art", but got no reply. The dogs came back to the front of the house, but still no "Art". About 10 minutes later,

my Mother saw my Father walking up the driveway----scratched and disheveled. He was white as a sheet and couldn't but barely whisper he was so scared. By the time us kids got home, he had calmed down and we all had a good laugh over his encounter with the bobcat. We didn't know who was more scared, the bobcat or my Dad. I don't think he thought it was as funny as the rest of us, but he took all the kidding good-naturedly.

Pete Filiatrault
"The Ghost of the Agua Caliente Ranch"



Photo by Susan Knoll

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](#))

Lynda Nash, **Secretary**
([Fundraising](#))

Peggy Denny, **Treasurer**
([Website](#))

Pete Filiatrault
([Co-Founder](#))

Chuck Ford
([County Liaison](#))

Christine Glanz

Judy Gray

Vaughn Johnson

Sylvia Olberding

Roberta (Bobbie) Probst

Joyce Roughton

Sandy Sarah

([Co-Founder](#))

Linwood Smith

Board Member email addresses are:

FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org

FOAC Board Member Nominations / Annual Meeting

The *Friends of Agua Caliente* Annual Meeting will be held on January 27th, 2014 @ 7 pm in the Bunkhouse (brown building at the north end of parking lot) at Agua Caliente Park. All members & donors are invited to attend. We will have discussions concerning the upcoming Bond initiative and the current status of the Ponds. Nominations for FOAC Board & Officer positions will also be voted on at the meeting.

Nominations Slate for FOAC Board Positions:

Officer positions:

President: Jim Knoll (one year extension to Jan 15)

Treasurer: Peggy Denny (second three year term: Jan 14 – Jan 17)

Board Position Renewal (Jan 2014 – Jan 2017):

Peggy Denny

Chuck Ford

Christine Glanz

Jim Knoll

Sylvia Olberding

Nature Corner

White – Tailed Deer Virginia Deer



Photo by Susan Knoll

Length: 3 - 6' / Height: 3 - 4'
Weight: Male: 70-120 Lbs;
Female: 50-75 Lbs

Pale gray in color, with white underparts. The large triangular tail is snow-white underneath. Belly, throat, noseband, eye ring, and inside of ears are white. Mate Dec-Feb. The white tail is less polygamous than other deer, and a few bucks mate with only one doe. Fawns, usually twins sometimes triplets, are born in early to midsummer, 6-7 months gestation. Fawns are covered with white spots and walk within hours of birth.

Food: Herbivore; grasses and other green plants, acorns, and nuts in summer, twigs and buds in winter.

Beds are shallow, oval, body-size depressions in leaves or snow. A shy alert deer commonly “flags” its large white tail and runs away when frightened.

Bobcat Felis Rufus



Photo by Susan Knoll

Length: 2.5' – 3.5' / Height: 18 – 24"
Tail: 3 – 7"
Weight: 14-30 Lbs

Yellowish brown during summer and light gray during winter with dark streaks and

spots. Stiff fur tapers to a point on cheek ruffs. Triangular ears with black tufts with white spots on the back.

Mating in Feb – Mar; 60 – 70 days gestation. 1 – 7 (usually 3) kittens per year in April or May.

Carnivore; semi-nocturnal. Feeds on rabbits, mice, and birds. Their kittens may be taken by coyotes or lions.

They live in a den of hollow logs, rock crevice, or under a pile of tree branches filled with leaves.

The bobcat is secretive and seldom seen, but is quite common in our state.

Judy Gray
Naturalist
FOAC Board Member

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, please send an email to FOAC@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org to be placed on the electronic distribution (we do not release our database to anyone).

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

Jim Knoll



Photo by Susan Knoll

Membership in the Friends of Agua Caliente

Join Friends of Agua Caliente

We are about half way through 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 January 1st, 2014 we have a total of 140 supporters (combination of member and donor). Your generosity has raised \$6,066.

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 FOAC@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org. Additional membership information is also on the FOAC website listed at the bottom of

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751 - 2005

ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 27TH, 2014
7 PM in the Bunkhouse

Tucson Audubon at Agua Caliente Park

Tucson Audubon is your destination for all things birdy. Our nature shop at Agua Caliente Park is one of many ways to connect with the birds, habitats, and people of our special region. From over 150 free field trips all around southeast Arizona throughout the year, to a nationally popular Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival, monthly Living With Nature lectures or Birds & Beer socials, to volunteer opportunities and a wealth of information on www.tucsonaudubon.org, please make Tucson Audubon your birding buddy.

This winter, we hope you will join us for the *Our Changing Climate* gala at the Hilton El Conquistador. On Thursday, February 20th, enjoy a silent auction, three-course dinner, live birds, and a keynote presentation by Kathy Jacobs, a member of the President's Office of Science and

Technology Policy. She will provide us with a light-hearted view from within the National Climate Change Assessment. For questions or to register online, visit tucsonaudubon.org/gala or call Erin Olmstead at (520) 209-1809.

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.

Our friendly, knowledgeable volunteers look forward to your visit. 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!

*Kara Kaczmarzyk
Nature Shop Volunteer*

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.



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.



Postcards

FOAC sells Agua Caliente Postcards at the Audubon Shop in the Ranch



House. We appreciate your support of *the Friends of Agua Caliente*.