

# WELLSPRING NEWS

Winter 2025

Published by the Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

Tucson, Arizona

## Annual Meeting January 27, 2025

6:30 p.m. in the Rose Cottage Education Building

### From the President

Dear Friends of Agua Caliente Park,

Happy New Year! As I walk around the park with my dogs and family, it's wonderful to see so many people and animals enjoying the peace that our Oasis in the Desert provides. The Desert Garden (south of where the trees burned) has been open for nearly a year and is more filled in now that the native plants have had some growing time. Because of the generosity of our friends and members, we were able to donate \$40,000 to the county to design and plant this lovely garden. We've also donated an additional \$5,340 for an acoustic monitor (to detect bats and birds), an internet hotspot, a park bench, and some other miscellaneous items that make the Ranch House easier to work in and visit.

We continue to support the County's incredible Environmental Education team with funds for supplies and transportation for children's programs at the Park. Have you seen the educators getting kids all excited about the aquatic invertebrates they find in the pond? It takes special skills, and I admire them greatly. We'll be helping to fund another interesting speaker series in the Rose Cottage this year as well.

I was going back through much earlier newsletters and noticed that in the fall of 2003 there was so little water in the ponds that garden hoses were being used. The linings the County put in the main pond and the second pond have resulted in water savings so great that the natural spring currently supplies most of the water used by all the three ponds.

In December the FOAC Board of Directors gathered at a bench in the new Desert Garden to honor Sandy Sarah. Sandy was one of the four founders of our organization in 1993 and is still very active on our board. It is largely due to Sandy and her co-founders of FOAC (Pete Filliatrault, Linda Wood, and Jorga Riggerbach (spurred on by Mary Karrels)) that we have the magnificent landscape and rescued buildings currently seen at the park.

*Friends of Agua Caliente*

# 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!



\$1000 to \$5000 scholarship for  
graduating high school seniors entering  
college, trade or vocational school!

**APPLICATION DEADLINE  
MARCH 17, 2025**

for more details on application  
procedures and documents required  
please contact us at

[SCHOLARSHIP@FRIENDSOFAGUACALIENTE.ORG](mailto:SCHOLARSHIP@FRIENDSOFAGUACALIENTE.ORG)

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## Membership

Join Friends of Agua Caliente! Thank you to all of our loyal supporters. If you have not yet renewed, please consider supporting FOAC. Our ability to support the Park with funding and items Pima County cannot normally purchase is tremendous and we owe it all to you.

As of December 24, 2024, we have 214 supporters for the 2024-2025 year and through your generosity, have raised \$21,310. This includes 168 renewals (59% renewal rate) and 46 new supporters. FOAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and donations are tax deductible.

Membership is \$15 for an Individual, \$25 for a Family, \$50 for Organizations, and Donations of any amount are appreciated. Please send name, address, and email along with a check to Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc., P.O. Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005. You can also securely support FOAC with PayPal or Credit Card from our website.

**Jim Knoll, Membership**

## Winter Speaker Series - Desert Dwellers: Building Ecological Literacy Through Storytelling

Registration for the Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources Winter Lecture Series is open. This seasons' programs are free. Donations are appreciated, registration is suggested, and walk-ins are welcome when space permits. Lectures will take place in the Rose Cottage Education Building on Sundays.

### Update on the Implications of Climate Changes for Pima County

**When:** Sunday, January 26 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Presenter:** Dr. Gregg Garfin, Extension Specialist and Professor in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

### The Art of Exploration: How field sketching and journaling bridge science, conservation, and well-being

**When:** Sunday, February 9 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Presenter:** Dr. Roseann Hanson is a naturalist, artist, and explorer. A native Tucsonan who grew up not far from Agua Caliente Ranch.

### Thinking Bioregionally

**When:** Sunday, February 23 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Presenter:** Gregory McNamee, a research associate with the University of Arizona's Southwest Center, is a writer, journalist, editor, photographer, and publisher.

### Beef, Wheat & Chiltepin: Sonora's Culinary Heritage

**When:** Sunday, March 9 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Presenter:** Alex La Pierre, Director and Co-founder of Borderlandia.

### A Conversation with Kimi Eisele

**When:** Sunday, March 23 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Presenter:** Kimi Eisele, writer, artist, dancer, improviser, wayfinder, and author of The Lightest Object in the Universe.

For further details and online registration information, visit <https://explore.pima.gov>. Reserve your spot today!

## President's Letter, cont. (from page1)

It's almost time for SARSEF (Tucson's regional science and engineering fair), and for year two of our Scholarship for graduating seniors. Let us know if you'd like to be a part of these judging teams. It's quite fulfilling and exciting to see how creative High School kids in our area are! Please join us at our annual meeting on January 27 at 6:30 PM in the Rose Cottage.

Thank you for all you do to support the wonderful work we do for education of our children and to help keep this park beautiful. Please enjoy this mule deer selfie and a very cute bobcat kitten we caught on one of our wildlife cameras. Another camera caught the bobcat mom carrying a packrat for dinner.

**Pam Rossetter, President**



**Sandy Sarah (FOAC founding member) on the Desert Garden bench she donated to the park. Photo courtesy of Susan Knoll**



**Mule deer selfie**



**Bobcat kitten**

## FOAC Board of Directors

**Pam Rossetter, President**  
**Jerry Martin, Vice President**  
**Peggy Denny, Treasurer**  
**Joanne Triplett, Secretary**  
Janet Baker  
Tina Baker (Social Media)  
Maura Brackett (Fundraising)  
Mary Karrels  
Jim Knoll (Membership)  
Sylvia Olberding (Scholarships)  
Joyce Roughton  
Sandy Sarah (Co-Founder)

FOAC Website: <https://friendsofaguacaliente.org>

## Nature Programs at the Park

Check out the programs at the park offered by Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources. Many of the programs are free. Registration, at <https://explore.pima.gov>, is required.

**Birding Agua Caliente Park**—Wednesday, February 5 & 19

**Birding 101: Birding for all Ages and Abilities @ Agua Caliente Park**—Saturday, February 8

**Birding For EveryBODY**—Friday, January 24, and Thursday, February 6. This program is offered in partnership with the [Tucson Audubon Society](#)

**Cell Phone Photography Basics**—Saturday, February 15

## **Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.**

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

### **Annual Meeting — January 27, 2025**

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Agua Caliente will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in person in the Rose Cottage Education Building at Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park.

Please RSVP at: [info@friendsofaguacaliente.org](mailto:info@friendsofaguacaliente.org).

We will review funding, other business and vote on the current nominations for new and continuing Officers and Directors. Hope to see you there!

#### **Link to Nominations Slate:**

<https://friendsofaguacaliente.org/nominations-to-the-friends-of-agua-caliente-board-of-directors/>

#### **Email the Board at:**

*FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org*

### **Electronic Newsletter**

Sending the newsletter electronically saves *FOAC* postage and you receive it in color. If you did not receive an electronic version and would like to be placed on the electronic distribution, please send an email to: [info@friendsofaguacaliente.org](mailto:info@friendsofaguacaliente.org).

We do not release our database to anyone.

To find us on Facebook, search “Friends of Agua Caliente Tucson” within Facebook or scan this QR code.

