



WELLSPRING NEWS

Summer 2025

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

Tucson, Arizona

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

What a relief it is to have rains come back to the Tucson basin! Hopefully these monsoons will be generous and get our spring flowing again.

A few years ago the board decided to become more involved with local students and their journey in Environmental Education. We continue to supplement the county's amazing education program. There are few things that make me happier than walking around in the park only to see excited educators and students learning about insects, bats, lizards, fish, and ecosystems! Our park is a wonderful place to renew, connect, and to learn.

Once again we had the pleasure of reviewing student science projects through SARSEF (Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair). We judged projects submitted by high school students - grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Our focus was on projects that related to Environmental Studies. This year we gave the following awards: First place \$200, second place \$150, third place \$100 and three honorable mentions each at \$50 (\$600 in total).

This is the second year we have awarded scholarships to HS Seniors. I am so impressed by the creativity and energy of the young people in our area! This year we awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to seniors, many who are the first in their family to attend college. The Board voted to increase the allocation next year so we can help more students.

Let us know if you'd like to participate on these committees. You do not need to be a member of the board to be involved in our committee work.

Save the date (Saturday, November 22 from 3-5 PM) for a member appreciation event at the park. For more details see Page 3.

Pam Rossetter, FOAC President

FOAC Scholarship Awards



Scholarship Committee presenting award to Bryan Rodriguez in front of the Ranch House

The Board of Directors is proud to announce the recipients of this year's FOAC scholarships. High school seniors from across Tucson applied, submitting essays about themselves and how their goals and interests align with FOAC's mission, along with letters of recommendation and academic transcripts.

Membership

THANK YOU for your extremely generous support this past year. If you have not yet renewed, please consider continuing your support. We will mail out any renewal requests for the 2026 year in October. We are planning a Membership Appreciation event this fall. Check out the details on Page 3.

Here is a recap of our 2024-2025 membership. We have a total of 331 supporters and have raised \$38,420. This includes 280 renewals (69%) and 51 new supporters.

FOAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so your support may be 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., PO Box 32005, Tucson, AZ 85751-2005. You can also securely support FOAC with PayPal or Credit Card from our website or using this QR code:



Your dedication to the Park and FOAC is greatly appreciated.

Jim Knoll, Membership

After careful review by the FOAC Scholarship Committee, five outstanding students were selected for their academic achievements, community involvement, and passion for conservation and environmental stewardship. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to support their continued education. We congratulate these remarkable young individuals and wish them every success in their pursuit of higher education!

Albaro Ayon Flores – Mica Mountain High School

Kristy Hudgins – Tanque Verde High School

Alexander Johnson – Empire High School

Daniel Provenzano – University High School

Bryan Rodriguez – Flowing Wells High School

**Sylvia Olberding,
Scholarship Committee Chair**

July & August Nature Programs

Bat Walk at Agua Caliente Park

Explore the nocturnal world of bats, beginning with an introduction to their diversity, biology, and conservation. The group will then set off on a casual stroll with a bat detector to determine which species are flying over our heads.



Dates and Times:

Tuesday, July 15 | 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 12 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 fee. Online registration required. [Register Here](#)

Birding Agua Caliente Park



Explore the ponds, mesquite bosque, and surrounding desert of Agua Caliente Park in search of its rich bird life. We expect to see woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and more.

Dates: Wednesday, July 16, August 6, and 20

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$5 activity fee. Online registration required. [Register Here](#)

Ancient History - The Whiptail Ruin Excavations

The park has a fascinating history. Back in the thirteenth century AD, a Hohokam village occupied an area near the hot spring. Named the Whiptail ruins, this village was present in the early 1200s to about 1300. The most recent excavation was conducted in 1964 and continued into the seventies. The village could have included up to sixty people. Some of the artifacts recovered are on display at the Ranch house at the Park. For more information about these ruins and the people that lived there, take a step back through time and click on the link to this article from Old Pueblo Archaeology.

[REMEMBERING THE WHIPTAIL RUIN EXCAVATIONS](#)

For more information on the park history visit the Ranch House, peruse the photos, and speak to one of the awesome Docents that graciously share their time with the community. The Ranch House is open Wednesday through Sunday. May to October hours are 9 am to 1 pm. November to April hours are 10 am to 2 pm.

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

Board of Directors

Pam Rossetter, President

Jerry Martin, Vice President

Mary Karrels, Secretary

Peggy Denny, Treasurer

Jan Baker

Tina Baker (Social Media)

Maura Brackett (Fundraising)

Jim Knoll (Membership)

Pat Mooney

Sylvia Olberding (Scholarships)

Joyce Roughton

Sandy Sarah (Co-Founder)

Lou Spivack

Joanne Triplett

Board email addresses are:

FirstLast@FriendsOfAguaCaliente

SAVE THE DATE!

Member Appreciation

**Saturday, November
22nd from 3 - 5 PM**

In appreciation of our generous friends and members, we look forward to celebrating you with food and beverages in the courtyard of the Ranch House.

We are very excited —

The **Tanque Verde Jazz Band** will be providing entertainment!

Representatives from the County will be on hand to celebrate the Desert Garden with a ribbon cutting.

We look forward to seeing you there! Stay tuned - we'll keep you posted as planning progresses.

Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc.

P.O. Box 32005

Tucson, AZ 85751-2005

Social Media

Looking for information on Agua Caliente Park events, the history of the park, or learning about what you might see at the park? Check out our Facebook page, our website and our YouTube channel:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofaguacaliente>

<https://friendsofaguacaliente.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofaguacaliente9557>

Each month on Facebook we share Pima County National Resources Parks and Recreation's online and in person nature events including those located at the park. There are historical tours and lectures as well! You'll also learn about the art exhibits showing in the Ranch House Gallery.

Each month we highlight flora and fauna at the park, share beautiful landscape photos and share improvements to the park made possible in part through donations from people like you (renovations, park benches, the main pond bridge, and drinking fountains to name a few).

You too can share your experiences at the park by sending your photos through Facebook Messenger or email to:

TinaBaker@FriendsOfAguaCaliente.Org

We will share your photos to social media with credit to the photographer.

Tina Baker
Social Media

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. We do not release our database to anyone.