

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

ISSUE NO. 60

APRIL 2014

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Volunteer Meeting – Animal Attraction and the Mating Game

Wednesday, April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Visitor Center
3482 E. River Road, Tucson

Sandy Reith will give her popular presentation about the ways animals use scent, sound, color, and impressive displays to catch the attention of potential mates. Please let Meg know if you plan to attend meg.quinn@pima.gov, phone 520-615-7855 ext. 6.



Photo: Doris Evans

Park, conducted by Meg Quinn and volunteer Liisa Reid. The morning began with a desert walk to discuss food plants and how they were used by native people. This was followed by a delicious sampling of nopalito salad, cholla bud salsa, prickly pear juice, chia gel, and mesquite cookies. Thank you,

Liisa for your help! Future ethnobotanical workshops will include Cholla Buds, Saguaro Harvest, Prickly Pear Fruit, and Desert Fiber Plants. If you would like to assist on any of these, contact Meg at meg.quinn@pima.gov or 520-615-7855 ext. 6.

Volunteer Field Trip – Arizona History Museum

Wednesday, April 23, 11:00 a.m.

Arizona History Museum
949 E. 2nd Street, Tucson

Join us for a guided tour of the Arizona History Museum. The museum exhibits focus on southern Arizona history from Spanish colonial through territorial eras. Exhibit topics include mining and transportation. The Arizona's Treasures exhibit features Geronimo's rifle and 18th-century Spanish silver artifacts. For more information about the Arizona History Museum visit www.arizonahistoricalociety.org. We will help coordinate carpooling. Please RSVP to Sandy at sandy.reith@pima.gov or 520-615-6755 ext. 5 by Friday, April 18.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Desert Foods

A successful Desert Foods Walk and Tastings program was held at the Desert Discovery Center in Tucson Mountain



Wildlife Viewing Volunteers – Insects

We are looking for volunteers interested in insects for upcoming programs. You do not need to be an expert on insects. If you are captivated by these amazing animals, contact Jeff at Jeffrey.Babson@pima.gov or 520-615-7855 ext. 3.

Youth and Family

On April 12 we will have the Sonoran Desert Kids Club Leapin' Lizards program. This is a very popular activity that will take place at Agua Caliente Park from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We will have two Outdoor Family Days, a fun bug program at our new Pima County Desert Discovery Center on April 19 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and a photography program at Sweetwater Wetlands on April 26 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in assisting kids and families on these programs contact Axhel at axhel.munoz@pima.gov or 520-615-7855 ext. 2.

TOURS OF HISTORIC HACIENDA DE LA CANOA

Tours of Canoa Ranch continue to be popular, thanks to the incredible work of our Canoa Ranch volunteer tour guides. Up to 300 hundred people visit the ranch monthly during this busy time of year to learn about the rich ranching history of the area and about the Santa Cruz Valley. Our thanks go to the tour guides who show up, rain or shine, to make the ranch come to life for visitors. As one visitor commented, "The tour far exceeded my

**Interested in Volunteering? Email us at eeducation@pima.gov
Call us at Environmental Education Office 520-615-7855**

expectations. This area is a historical treasure and I can't wait to visit again to see how renovation has progressed." We'll continue to offer tours on Tuesdays and Saturdays in April at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. For more information contact 520-877-6004 or CanoaRanch@pima.gov.

LECTURE SUMMARY/HISTORY OF THE SANTA CRUZ VALLEY

On March 6, Dr. Tom Sheridan, Ph.D. and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arizona presented an engaging program about the history of the Santa Cruz Valley, at the Joyner-Green Valley Library. Dr. Sheridan provided information about missions, land grants, and life in the Santa Cruz Valley to an audience of 100 people. Highlights from Tom's presentation include:

- The word mission doesn't equal church; churches were just part of the mission and were built up to 100 years after the missions were established.
- Missions were intended to be self-sufficient and each mission consisted of thousands of acres of surrounding land, with cattle, goats, and sheep.
- Domesticated livestock didn't exist in North America until 1440.

Dr. Sheridan has written or co-edited twelve books and monographs including *Arizona: A History*, Revised Edition (UA Press 2012).

AGUA CALIENTE PARK UPDATE

We would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to Agua Caliente Ranch House volunteers Bobbye Haggerty, Jeanne Jagielski, Nancy Blanchard, Royce Jordan, Terry Grzyb-Wysocki, and Van Fowers who together contribute more than twenty hours weekly engaging the public. Their skilled storytelling draws visitors in and transports them back through time to appreciate a piece of our rich cultural past!

The Ranch House is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. until the end of April; May through October hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MOUNTAIN LIONS AND BOBCATS

Congratulations to volunteers Doris Evans and Pat Monahan who presented their Mountain Lions and Bobcats program to the Green Valley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) group on February 25.

The program consisted of a PowerPoint followed by an informal discussion using skulls and pelts. The talk is

part of a series on Southwest Flora, Fauna, and Climate presented annually to OLLI by Pima County Environmental Educators.

LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE

Living with Urban Wildlife volunteers Pam Ryan, Pat Monahan, Grace Evans, and Amy Gaiennie spent a beautiful, albeit windy, day engaging almost 400 people at Sabino Canyon's annual *Music in the Canyon* event. The March 8 event was truly a feast for the senses, a day filled with good music, the intoxicating scents of tasty food, and lively conversation about the wonders of our Sonoran Desert. In April the trailer heads off to the annual Earth Day Celebration at Reid Park and to participate in the spring Cyclovia event.



PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sharon Bronson, Chair • District 3

Ally Miller • District 1

Ramón Valadez • District 2

Ray Carroll • District 4

Richard Elías • District 5

PIMA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Huckelberry • County Administrator

John M. Bernal • Deputy County Administrator for Public Works

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION

Chris Cawein • Director


PIMA COUNTY
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 West River Road • Tucson, AZ 85741
520-877-6000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr