

# PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

ISSUE NO. 56

DECEMBER 2013



## DECEMBER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### AGUA CALIENTE PARK

#### Wake Up with the Birds

Every Thursday in December, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Canyon of Gold\*

Sunday, December 1, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

#### Nuts about Nature Preschool Hour

Wednesday, December 4 and 18, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

#### Nature Stories at Agua Caliente Park

Friday, December 6 and 20, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

#### Historical Tour of Agua Caliente Park

Sunday, December 8, 22, and 29, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

#### A History Tour around the Rincons\*

Sunday, December 15, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

### TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK

#### Sonoran Desert Weedwackers\*

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday and 3rd Saturday in December (except Christmas Day, December 25)  
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### Brown Mountain Hike

Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

#### Paint Out in the Park

Saturday, December 7, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### A Night with the Stars

Friday, December 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### OUT AND ABOUT IN PIMA COUNTY

#### Tour of Hacienda de la Canoa\*

Every Tuesday and Saturday in December,  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and Noon – 1:30 p.m.

#### Outdoor Family Day: Natural Wreath Making for the Holidays\*

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Visitor Center,  
3482 E. River Road

#### Cienega Creek Birding Walk

Tuesday, December 10, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Sweetwater Preserve Birding\*

Friday, December 13, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Honey Bee Canyon Park Birding Walk

Saturday, December 14, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Birding at Sweetwater Wetlands

Tuesday, December 17 and 31, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Birding at Hacienda de la Canoa\*

Saturday, December 28, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

\*RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: 520-615-7855

## VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY

Be sure to join us for the annual Holiday Party at the Ranch House at Agua Caliente Park on Friday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will once again decorate the

Ranch House for the holiday season as we enjoy refreshments and holiday music. If you would like to participate in the optional cookie exchange, bring a plate of cookies and everyone will go home with a plate containing a variety of cookies brought by yourself and others. All volunteers are welcome. If you have questions, contact Meg at [meg.quinn@pima.gov](mailto:meg.quinn@pima.gov). See you there!

## JANUARY VOLUNTEER MEETING

On Friday, January 17 volunteers Pat Monahan and Doris Evans will present *Learning about Arizona's Wild Cats*, a program on the natural history and ecology of our region's four wild cat species: the mountain lion, bobcat, jaguar, and

ocelot. Tips for living safely in harmony with these wild felids, particularly the more common bobcat and mountain lion will be included. After the formal talk, skulls, tracks and pelts will be used to share information informally with the group. Doris and Pat are docents at the Wild Cat Research and Conservation



Photo: Paul Berquist

Center at the University of Arizona, managed by felid biologist Lisa Haynes. The meeting will be held at the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Visitor Center from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Please let Meg know at [meg.quinn@pima.gov](mailto:meg.quinn@pima.gov) if you plan to attend.

## LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE

As the lovely fall weather sets in, our Living with Urban Wildlife trailer ventures into a busy season of event hopping. The season kicked-off with Tucson Meet Yourself in October and will continue through the spring with 2 to 4 events each month. We are branching out a bit this year to include a presence at local farmers markets, county

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Call us at Environmental Education Office 520-615-7855**

parks, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Antique Fair as well as local botanical gardens. With so many events on the horizon, our talented LWUW volunteers will have plenty of opportunities to flex their interpretive muscles and share their wealth of knowledge with the public. Though the season is barely underway, our volunteers have already contributed greatly. I want to extend a great big thank you to Betty Harris, Bill Kaufman, Bob Bertolini, Judy Burgard, Pat Monahan, and Wanda Wynne for helping to staff the trailer during an extremely busy weekend downtown for Tucson Meet Yourself. Special thanks to Amy Gaiennie and Laura Cotter for enduring a very blustery day out at Agua Caliente Park. And thanks to Amy Gaiennie, Bill Kaufman, Carol Brown, Doris Evans, and Liz Pederson for staffing the trailer at Catalina State Park. The success of these events is the result of your enthusiastic participation; we couldn't do it without you! *Julie Strom*

### LWUW Key Messages

*By design or by accident your home and yard may provide some element of wildlife habitat – a place where an animal finds food, water, shelter and space.*

To avoid and resolve wildlife conflicts:

- Do not feed wildlife and remove all artificial sources of food. Feed pets indoors and secure garbage so cans cannot be knocked over.
- Water is a major attractant for wildlife; you may need to alter landscape irrigation methods and remove other water sources.
- Actively discourage unwanted wildlife by chasing the animals away or spraying with a hose.
- Exclude unwanted wildlife from your home and living spaces by sealing entry holes or installing barriers.

## TUCSON'S RIVER OF WORDS

The Tucson's River of Words (TROW) program is in full swing and Yajaira and the entire EE Team would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers that have been presenting the Exploring Watershed programs to several elementary schools in the Tucson area: Laura Cotter, Jack Monahan, and Eudine Lupino. Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art (TROW) encourages young people to explore how water moves through the landscape and the connections that plants, animals, and people have to water. After exploring these topics children ages 5–19 have the opportunity to share their

observations and understandings through their entries of poetry and/or visual art to Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Volunteers come with many talents and skills which enhance the varied programs we offer. Recently, Sean Taylor, a resident of East Tucson, volunteered to build a brand new "time shelf", one of the many teaching props used in the school-age Earthkeepers program. The time shelf is part of an activity that teaches the concept of change, both long term and short term, in natural systems. The school program team would like to send out a huge thank you to Sean for the well-built and perfectly

functional new shelf. As you can see in the photo of Sean's work, the time shelf comes alive when filled with the contents of time capsules representing different periods of geological time.  
*Steve Russell*



## PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

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Pima County Natural Resources,  
Parks and Recreation

3500 West River Road

Tucson, AZ 85741

520-877-6000 • [www.pima.gov/nrpr](http://www.pima.gov/nrpr)