

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

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Photo: Doris Evans

AGUA CALIENTE PARK

The wildlife viewing has been terrific at Agua Caliente Park. Thanks to Liz Harrison, Dick Carlson, Linda Hanson, Judy More, and Laura Cotter for leading bird walks at the park. Recent highlights include flocks of Western bluebird and cedar waxwing. We also witnessed an adult Cooper's hawk pluck and begin to eat a male Gila woodpecker! Not something we see every day. The last Nature Nights program of the year produced a pair of Western screech-owls and a Western diamondback rattlesnake. The Park's Lecture Series started on November 2 and will continue through February. Many thanks, to volunteers Bobbye Haggerty, Terry Grzyb-Wysocki, Van Fowers, Nancy Blanchard, Royce Davenport, and Jeannie Jagielski for welcoming, touring, and educating visitors to the Ranch House. Thanks also to Terry and Van for leading the Historical Tours of Agua Caliente Park.



Photo: Rhonda Spencer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HISTORY DAYS

In 2015 Arizona History Day will be offered at both Agua Caliente Park on Tuesday, February 10 and, for the first time, at Canoa Ranch on Thursday, March 12. The program is aimed at students in the 4th grade studying Arizona history. Approximately 175 students are expected at Agua Caliente Park. At Canoa Ranch the number of participants has been limited to 60 students. Many volunteers are needed to assist the environmental education staff with these



events. Volunteer opportunities at History Day include assisting activity instructors, leading activities, setting up lunch, directing pedestrian traffic, and of course the set-up and clean-up. Both events are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers may sign up for the morning session (9:00 to 11:00 a.m.) or afternoon session (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), or both. If you are interested, please contact Steve Russell at steve.russell@pima.gov if you have questions or want to explore how you might get involved with this popular event for 4th graders.

ARIZONA HISTORY AND WILDLIFE LECTURE SERIES

Thanks to Kerry Baldwin, Pima County Natural Resources Division Manager, for an excellent presentation on November 2 about the history and future of the natural spring and pond system at Agua Caliente Park. If you're interested in learning more about our state's history and wildlife you won't want to miss the December lectures at Agua Caliente Park and Joyner-Green Valley Library.

Arizona's Desert Reptiles and Amphibians, Randy Babb, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Wednesday, December 3, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Joyner-Green Valley Branch Library, 601 N. La Canada Drive, Green Valley. Reservations not required, but space is limited.

Borderland Felids (jaguars and ocelots), Randy Babb, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Sunday, December 14, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Agua Caliente Park. Reservations required.

Larcena Pennington Page Scott, Shirley Pinkerton, Arizona Historical Society. Hear the story of 23 year old Larcena who was captured by the Apaches in 1860. Wednesday, December 17, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Joyner-Green Valley Branch Library. Reservations not required, but space is limited.

John Henry Holliday, AKA "Doc" Holliday, Volunteer Van Fowers, Sunday, December 28, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Agua Caliente Park, 12325 E. Roger Road. Reservations required.

GROUP TOURS OF HISTORIC HACIENDA DE LA CANOA

Consider bringing your neighborhood group to Canoa Ranch for an historic tour of the property. Tours are offered on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 10:00 a.m. and noon, and are led by our knowledgeable volunteer tour guides. For more information, contact 520-724-5520 or CanoaRanch@pima.gov. Other activities scheduled this month at Canoa Ranch include a Birding Walk on December 16, 8:00 a.m. (reservations required, contact CanoaRanch@pima.gov) and Structures Rehabilitation Tours of the buildings and grounds, on December 3 and 17, at 9:00 a.m. (reservations required, contact CanoaRanch@pima.gov).

LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE

The fall LWUW event season is in full swing; no time for weeds to grow beneath those wheels! The fall Cyclovia event was a huge success. The route was changed this year to run along Fontana and 4th Avenue in order to meet up with the streetcar. We had more than 200 people stop by the trailer (and many neighborhood residents came back to chat repeatedly throughout the day). On November 8, the trailer set out for Sabino Canyon to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It



was a beautiful day full of great discussions with about 150 visitors to the Canyon as well as staff and volunteers from numerous local wildlife and nature organizations. A great big thank you to Carol Brown, Pat Monahan, Bill Kaufman and Amy Gaiennie for helping to staff the trailer and engaging residents in constructive conversations about living in harmony with wildlife, urban and otherwise!

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, funded by an Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Grant, hosted two, 2-day Teacher Workshops to guide the direction of our new Wetland Wildlife education program. The first workshop was held at the Roger Road Ponds just northwest of Sweetwater Wetlands and the second workshop was held at Agua Caliente Park. A combined 28 teachers attended the workshops, participating in activities led by our PCNRPR environmental educators, U of A's Project Wet staff as well as staff from the National Phenology Network. After becoming fully acquainted with the site, as well as existing wetland and wildlife curriculum, teachers engaged in brainstorming sessions to determine how to focus this novel curriculum to best meet the ever-changing demands on teachers. Staff will compile the input from both workshops then get to work developing the curriculum which should prove to be an exciting new addition to our slate of programs. We are grateful to the Friends of Agua Caliente Park for funding the lunches for the teachers.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Everyone is invited to Agua Caliente Park for the annual Ranch House Decorating Party and cookie exchange on December 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.! We'll decorate all the rooms in the Ranch House using a wonderful collection of decorations that have been donated over the years. The cookie exchange is optional but if you'd like to participate just bring some cookies or treats, and you'll leave with a plate of sample cookies from everyone else. See you there!

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

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PIMA COUNTY

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation

3500 West River Road • Tucson, AZ 85741

520-724-5000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr