

# PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

ISSUE NO. 59

MARCH 2014

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Volunteer Meeting – Desert Wildflowers

Friday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Visitor Center  
3482 E. River Road

Meg Quinn will present a program on desert wildflowers. She will show many of the local annual and perennial wildflowers that produce colorful spring displays in our deserts and canyons. She will also discuss factors leading to the occasional year of spectacular fields of annuals such as poppies, lupine, and owl clover. Please let Meg know if you plan to attend [meg.quinn@pima.gov](mailto:meg.quinn@pima.gov), phone 520-615-7855 ext. 6.

### Volunteer Field Trip – Tumacácori National Historical Park

Thursday, March 27, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Guided Tour

Tumacácori National Historical Park

1891 E. Frontage Road, Tumacacori.

Car pool from Tucson leaves at 7:45 a.m., location to be determined. Car pool from Green Valley leaves at 8:45 a.m., location to be determined. We have arranged for a group tour of Tumacácori National Historical Park for our volunteers. Please let Sandy know by March 24 if you plan to attend [sandy.reith@pima.gov](mailto:sandy.reith@pima.gov) 520-615-7855 ext. 5.

### Southern Arizona's Spanish Colonial Presidios

Author and Historian Jim Turner gave a presentation about Southern Arizona's Spanish Colonial presidios to an audience of 100 people as part of the Santa Cruz Valley Historic Lecture Series. Some highlights from the presentation:

- The term presidio dates back to the Roman Empire, where the praesidium was more than a fort or garrison but more of a walled outpost where families, merchants, and artisans lived within the walls.
- Father Eusebio Kino established more than twenty missions in the Pimeria Alta (upper land of the Pima Indians), in what is now northern Sonora and southern Arizona.
- The first presidio was constructed at Tubac in 1752, perhaps the only presidio that did not have a surrounding wall. In the 1770s, the presidio at Tubac was moved to Tucson. You can still see the remains of the stone foundation at Tubac State Historic Park.



Photo: C. Allan Morgan

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Wildlife Tracking Volunteers

Pima County Regional Flood Control (RFCD) and Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) are looking at areas of Canoa Ranch for an in-lieu mitigation fee habitat restoration project with the U.S. Corp of Engineers.

In preparation for this project there is interest in monitoring wildlife on the site to generate some absence/presence data on the larger wildlife species before habitat enhancements are done. RFCD and NRPR are working with Sky Island Alliance to establish wildlife tracking transects along with some remote camera sites. A working group has done some preliminary surveys and has identified three individual transects of about 1.5 miles in length.

We are seeking a small group of volunteers to do quarterly tracking transects. Volunteers will receive all necessary training to collect data on the transects and download images from the wildlife trail cameras. Volunteers would need to travel to Canoa Ranch four times a year and spend three to four hours collecting and recording data. There may also be an additional commitment of two hours a month to review and catalog photos from the remote wildlife cameras. The volunteers will need to be able to walk three to four miles in sandy soil in both hot and cold conditions. If you are interested in participating please send a message to [CanoaRanch@pima.gov](mailto:CanoaRanch@pima.gov) or call Sallie Muse at 520-877-6004.

### HISTORIC HACIENDA DE LA CANOA – RECONSTRUCTION OF CORRAL GATES

Staff and volunteers at Canoa Ranch have repaired heavy wooden gates at the north end of the corrals. Four of these are



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

the "standard size" (9 ft. wide x 5'-6" ft. high), while two gates are from the nearby covered stables area. The majority of these gates were made in the 1940s and the wood is now structurally unsound, so it has been replaced where necessary. The metal hardware was cleaned of rust and serviced before being re-installed. As one observer noted upon their re-installation "they work smooth as butter!" Painted the same historic green color used in the corrals, the gates are a welcome start to the long process of corral repair.



The work could not have been accomplished without our talented and dedicated volunteers Jim Easter, Vern Butler, Don White, Bill Craine, and Bruce Spooner who have shown up in all kinds of weather and don't mind getting dirty! We are also grateful to the NRPR Special Project and Trades staff Gerardo ("Muggs") Gutierrez, Richard Hornby, Simon Herbert, and Danny Mendoza.

## BEAT BACK BUFFELGRASS DAY 2014

Congratulations to all volunteers who participated in the annual community-wide Beat Back Buffelgrass Day on January 25th! The event was organized by the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center and sites included Oro Valley, Catalina Foothills, Kennedy Park, Dunbar Springs, Henry Elementary, and more. Many large swaths of buffelgrass were cleared away. There were 623 volunteers who filled 1398 large bags and contributed a total of about 2,000 hours. To learn more about the buffelgrass threat and to join ongoing volunteer efforts, go to [www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org).

## WILDLIFE VIEWING

Our wildlife viewing programs continue to draw good numbers of both birders and birds. Recent sightings at Agua Caliente Park include northern beardless-tyrannulet, white-throated swift, belted kingfisher, western bluebird, and great horned owl. Black-and-white warbler and nine soras were spotted at Sweetwater Wetlands. Several rufous-winged sparrows were

seen in Tucson Mountain Park and a peregrine falcon was a birding highlight at Canoa Ranch.

A great big thank you to our birding volunteers Dick Carlson, Liz Harrison, Jean Smith, Doris Evans, John Higgins, Mary Ellen Flynn, and Marjorie Flory for contributing their time and expertise.

## LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE OUTREACH

The LWUW road show visited Tucson Estates community with the slideshow and exhibit trailer. Doris Evans gave the presentation to 167 people and Grace Evans and Julie Strom interacted with folks at the exhibit trailer. This format received positive feedback and was effective in engaging a large group with big-picture messages and practical advice.

## AGUA CALIENTE PARK UPDATE

The weather was spectacular for the annual History Day at Agua Caliente Park attended by 142 fourth graders, teachers and parents. Students rotated through six stations highlighting various aspects of our rich, local history. Many thanks to Amy Gaiennie, Dick Carlson, Eudene Lupino, Jack Monahan, Linda Howard, Liz Harrison, Lynda Nash, Mary Karrels, Nancy Blanchard, Pat Carlson, Pat Monahan, and Bobbye Haggerty for making this event a success.

The 2013-2014 Agua Caliente Park Historic Lecture Series wrapped up on February 16. We would like to acknowledge our excellent presenters, and volunteers Van Fowers and Lynda Nash, for making this another great season of interesting and informative presentations.

We are very grateful for the generous contributions from the Friends of Agua Caliente Park in support of educational programs at Agua Caliente Park including funding for History Day and the lecture series.

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

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3500 West River Road • Tucson, AZ 85741

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