

# PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

ISSUE NO. 61

OCTOBER 2014

## VOLUNTEER MEETING

**Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction in the Santa Catalina Mountains**

**Friday, October 24, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

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

Join Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Manager Joe Sacco for an overview and history of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Arizona and their reintroduction into the Santa Catalina Mountains. This presentation discusses logistics and problems in repatriating sheep to historic habitats near Tucson and describes the goals the program hopes to achieve. Please let Meg know at [meg.quinn@pima.gov](mailto:meg.quinn@pima.gov) if you plan to attend. Thanks!



Photo: Sam Wilson

our most charismatic creatures! Our patience was rewarded by the opportunity to see an array of bats including Yuma myotis, cave myotis, pallid, big brown, yellow and Mexican long-tongued! Special thanks to Pat and Jack Monahan, Mary Karrels, Liz Harrison, Betty Harris, and Kristin Ulvestad for helping to staff the various stations and sparking many lively conversations.

## LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE EVENTS

In mid-August, Carol Brown, Doris Evans, Betty Harris, Grace Evans, Bob Bertolini, Liz Pederson, and Judy Burgard helped to ring in the start of our busy Living with Urban Wildlife event season by staffing a booth at the Tucson Audubon Society's Bird and Wildlife Festival Expo. This event welcomed hundreds of nature lovers from all around the world. Our next big LWUW events are: Tucson Meet Yourself, October 10-13; Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 50th Birthday Celebration and Food Truck Roundup, October 18, 5:00-9:00 p.m.; Anza Day at Canoa Ranch, October 26; and Wild for Wilderness Festival at Sabino Canyon celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, November 8. These and many other upcoming events will offer our talented LWUW volunteers plenty of opportunities to flex their interpretive muscles and share their wealth of knowledge with the public.

## NATURE NIGHTS: BATS AND BUGS

Our summer Bats and Bugs programs at Agua Caliente Park were a great success, together reaching almost 200 participants! The programs were presented in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department allowing for the set-up of mist nests to catch and release bats. Participants were treated to a variety of interpretive stations, crafts and of course an up close and personal peek at some of



Photo: Paul Berquist

## COMMUNITY CENTERS VISIT HISTORIC HACIENDA DE LA CANOA

Almost 200 Pima County Community Center children and staff participated in programs at Canoa Ranch this summer. As they toured the ranch and engaged in ranching activities, they learned about the rich history of Canoa Ranch and the people who lived there. Our thanks go out to the following volunteers who made this an exciting and educational opportunity for the Community Center children: Judy Burgard, Ellie Kurtz, Sandra Stone, Sharon Pomo, Maureen Brooks, and Van Fowers.

## CELEBRATE ANZA DAY AT CANOA RANCH

The 2nd Annual Anza Day at Canoa Ranch will celebrate the remarkable expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775-76 to establish a settlement at San Francisco Bay. The event will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Activities include visiting the historic ranch



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

buildings and corrals, where volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, an appearance by the Anza Trail Color Guard, vendors, information booths and special exhibits. This event is free and reservations are not required. For more information about this event and Anza Day events at other locations, visit: [www.anzadays.com](http://www.anzadays.com)

## WILDLIFE VIEWING AT AGUA CALIENTE PARK

It has been a very interesting summer at Agua Caliente Park! Some of the more interesting sightings in the park included a pair of American badgers (munching on a gopher snake, no less!), a new family of greater roadrunners that raised their young in an orange tree, and a juvenile gray hawk. Many thanks to our birding volunteers, Liz Harrison, Laura Cotter, Linda Hanson, and Judy More for helping to make our weekly bird walks a popular and educational way to spend some time in the park.

As the water level in the main pond rose, due to increased pumping and monsoon rainfall, there was a dramatic increase in the number of dragonflies to be seen, among them common green darner, roseate skimmer, flame skimmer, and Mexican amberwings. Recent butterfly walks in the park have seen pipevine and giant swallowtails, cloudless sulphur, Western pygmy-blue, queen, Empress Leilia, Dorantes long-tail (a stray from Mexico), and fiery skipper. Spider walks, yes, we do spider walks, have also been productive with sightings of orb weavers, funnel-web weavers, jumping spiders, giant crab spiders, and many others.

## SUMMER GREEN VALLEY OLLI TALKS

Throughout the year EE staff and volunteers present talks on a variety of topics to community groups including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). In June, a series presented to the Green Valley OLLI group included All About Saguaro and Mountain Wildflowers (Meg Quinn), Monsoon Mysteries (Sandy Reith), and Roadrunners (Doris Evans). Thank you Doris for your excellent addition to the series! Doris and Volunteer Pat Monahan also present their Big Cats of Arizona program to OLLI and other groups. Additional topics include Venomous and Poisonous Animals of Arizona, Buffelgrass in the Sonoran Desert, Climate Change: Put in Perspective, Cacti of the Southwest, and the Wonderful World of Bats. To get the full menu of available programs, contact Meg at [meg.quinn@pima.gov](mailto:meg.quinn@pima.gov). The programs are free and available to groups within Pima County upon request.

## PHENOLOGY DAYS: A CELEBRATION OF PARTNERSHIP, THE NATURAL WORLD, AND SCIENCE

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) and Pima

County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation along with multiple local organizations are uniting to celebrate the second annual "Phenology Days" during the week of September 27 – October 4, 2014. The "capstone event" held on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Visitor Center will include a keynote address by Gary Nabhan, phenology walk and information, milkweed plantings, activities for children, food, a raffle, prizes, and much more.

Phenology Days will educate participants about phenology, or the study of seasonal life cycle events in plants and animals, their timing and relationship to the surrounding environment. Yajaira Gray will be providing Phenology classes at five Pima County Community Centers and also will be establishing a Phenology Trail at Picture Rocks Community Center.

For more specific details about the events, visit the Tucson Phenology Trail website [www.usanpn.org/tucson-phenology-trail](http://www.usanpn.org/tucson-phenology-trail).

## UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

### Volunteer Meeting

"Hohokam Culture and the Whiptail Site" with archeologist Linda Gregonis

Friday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. to noon  
Agua Caliente Park Rose Cottage

### Ranch House Holiday Decorating Party

Friday, December 5, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Agua Caliente Park Ranch House

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