

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION

VOLUNTEER NEWS

ISSUE NO. 69

OCTOBER 2015

VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP

Friday, October 30, 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Tucson Mountain Park – Brown Mountain Trail
8451 W. McCain Loop Rd

Let's take advantage of good fall weather to take a desert hike in Tucson Mountain Park! This will be an easy, short walk on the mostly level lower Brown Mountain trail at a leisurely pace. Meg and the Volunteer Naturalists will interpret points of interest along the way. We'll meet at the Brown Mountain trailhead near the Gilbert Ray Campground at 9:00 a.m. and be back to the cars by 10:45 or so. For those interested, we'll then drive a short distance south on Kinney Road to the charming Coyote Paws Café for an early lunch. Just let Meg know at meg.quinn@pima.gov if you are able to attend. Thanks!

AGUA CALIENTE PARK NEWS

October brings with it cooler temperatures, Halloween, and new opportunities. At Agua Caliente Park, we are gearing up for the return of our winter residents and the busy season for 'Wake up with the Birds.' As such, we are looking for additional volunteer guides for this walk. You do not need to be a bird identification expert- you simply need to enjoy birds and interacting with the public. If you are interested in this fun, rewarding opportunity, contact Jeff Babson at jeffrey.babson@pima.gov. As an added perk, all volunteers are welcome to join in on the various guided walks and workshops free of charge.

Many thanks to our current birding volunteers for the excellent job that they do. A special thank you to Liz Harrison for so ably covering the Wake up with Birds walks on several occasions this summer. Thank You, Liz!

NATURE NIGHTS NEWS

The Nature Nights season is winding down, but it has been another successful year of introducing folks to the nocturnal wonders of the Sonoran Desert. We are very grateful to Betty Harris, Carol Brown, Kristen Ulvestad, Liz Harrison, Nancy Blanchard, and Pam Emerson who assisted with our Nature Nights programs at Agua Caliente Park. Your efforts helped to make our bat programs an enjoyable experience for children, families, and adults.



Volunteer Terry Grzyb-Wysocki

Our Nature Nights: Bats in Flight Programs at the Campbell Avenue Bridge have been a terrific success, in no small part to the expertise from Randy Babb and Joe Yarchin from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Watchable Wildlife Program. We had the largest crowd at the September event, with the help of publicity from Pima County Communications office and radio spots on Arizona Public Media. We were grateful to have docents from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum working side-by-side with NRPR volunteers, and Pat and Jack Monahan to deliver the bat interpretation activities.

We are always looking for volunteer support at the Nature Nights events. You do not need to be an expert on the subject for the evening to participate. The only requirements are curiosity and enthusiasm. Contact Jeff at jeffrey.babson@pima.gov if you would like to explore this opportunity.

Thank you all! We will see you again next summer!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please tell your friends and help us to pass the word on these volunteer opportunities.

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers to welcome park visitors, lead tours, and assist with interpretive programs at Agua Caliente Park. Volunteers receive a brief orientation and training, and shadowing of our experienced volunteers and staff.

- Tour Guides for the Agua Caliente Park Ranch House Visitor Center and Art Gallery. Meet and greet visitors and lead tours of the historic ranch house and grounds.
- Volunteer Naturalists to lead or assist with nature walks, birding and other wildlife viewing programs at Agua Caliente Park. Share your enthusiasm for the diversity of plants and animals with park visitors.
- School Program Volunteers to assist with student field study trips to Agua Caliente Park. Volunteers work side-by-side with NRPR educators to engage students in science study and nature-based activities.

For more information contact Meg Quinn 520-615-7855 ext. 6 or email aguacalientepark@pima.gov.

TUCSON MEET YOURSELF

The Tucson Meet Yourself Festival is October 9, 10 and 11. This annual event draws thousands of people to the downtown area and features music, dance, food, and a host of interactive displays and special exhibits that celebrate the diversity of our community. Pima County's Living with Urban Wildlife trailer will be set up in front of the Main Library for the entire weekend. We are looking for volunteers to assist in staffing the trailer. You don't have to be a wildlife expert to help out at this event! There will be a staff person there on all three days, but your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Two-hour shifts are available each day and there are free designated parking areas for volunteers. Please let Julie know at julie.strom@pima.gov if you can assist with staffing the trailer this year. Thanks!

CANOA RANCH UPDATES

Congratulations to Simon Herbert who has launched into an expanded role as volunteer coordinator for Canoa Ranch. Simon is at the ranch Tuesdays through Saturdays. Having Simon at the ranch full time is a huge plus for NRPR operations. Simon is overseeing the tour volunteers and the volunteers who work on rehabilitation projects. You will also see more of Valerie Samoy at Canoa Ranch as she works with staff and volunteers to coordinate the special events.

Pima County Communications Office produced a new video for Canoa Ranch. We had one day to prepare and film on a day when the ranch wasn't open to the public. Robert Vaughn was scheduled to show the ranch to a family of three from Chicago so we shot that and Raydine Taber with GV Gardeners was kind enough to show up at a moment's notice. Thank you Raydine! Here is the link to see the video <https://www.youtube.com/embed/8FiYo1WCVzg>

WILDLIFE TRACKING ON CANOA RANCH

During 2014 the Pima County Regional Flood Control district partnered with Sky Island Alliance (SIA) and Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation to start a volunteer tracking program on the Raúl M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch



Conservation Park in Green Valley. This provides information for the database that SIA maintains of wildlife movement between the sky islands of Arizona, New Mexico and Northern Mexico. Drawing on a group of twelve trained volunteers, teams go out every six weeks to walk three "transects" on the ranch. These transects are about one and a half miles long and are along a wash, a road, and the Santa Cruz river bed. The crews register and photograph tracks of what are known as "focal species". At the moment the focal species are bobcat, black bear, coati, jaguar, Mexican gray wolf, mountain lion, ocelot, opossum, and ornate box turtle. Of these the bobcat is the only one seen so far on the ranch although the American badger was added to the list since badger tracks were found. Apart from the focal species the most common tracks are mule deer, javelina, coyote, raccoon, and skunk.

The volunteers also maintain four wildlife cameras on the ranch. The cameras were provided by the county and automatically photograph passing animals and other movement both day and night. Some interesting pictures have resulted.



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

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