



# Saguaro Rib

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

## Friends Provides Over \$492,000 to support Saguaro National Park in 2022!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors in 2022, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the park with \$492,412 to protect wildlife and habitat, preserve cultural resources, promote environmental education, improve recreational trails, enhance visitor experiences, and build environmental stewardship at Saguaro National Park. Friends funding also supported the engagement of 531 volunteers who completed over 25,726 hours of service to the park. Time and talent valued by Independent Sector at \$770,494.



Friends Board Members  
Lisa Harris, Doug Siegel,  
Dan Kimball, and Bill Mannan

In 2022, Friends also surpassed an important milestone. Since our founding in 1997, we have provided over \$10 million in program and project support to Saguaro National Park! This incredible success would not have been possible without the generous support from our donors and volunteers. Thank you!

Friends continued to successfully implement the **Next Generation Ranger Corps Internship Program**. In 2022, the program reached a milestone when the 35th graduate was hired by a federal land management agency.



This highly effective and nationally recognized program helps diverse and passionate youth develop the skills and experiences required to pursue a career with federal land management agencies. Since 2015, the program has employed



90 diverse interns who receive targeted training, mentoring, and skill-building work experiences. 74% of the participants were women, 68% were from underserved communities, and 80% achieved Public Land Corps hiring authority. 95% of the graduates have gone on to work in the environmental field, 35 work for federal land management agencies, and 18 work here at Saguaro National Park. This program is developing future environmental leaders, in addition to expanding the park's capacity to complete research, control invasive species, maintain trails and buildings, collect fees, deliver environmental education programs, and provide the 1 million annual park visitors with a first-class experience.



Friends funding supported 60 miles of **trail maintenance and rehabilitation** at the King Canyon Trail to Wasson Peak, Douglas Spring Trail, Gould Mine Trail, Ernie's Falls Trail, Tanque Verde Ridge Trail, Sweetwater Trail, Garwood Trail, Sendero Esperanza Trail, and many more.





Friends funding from Arizona Gives Day in 2022 supported the purchase of a **new pack mule** named Big Boy and allowed Patty to retire. Patty now happily lives at a ranch in Sonoita as a horse companion. Friends also funded the park's

participation in a comprehensive Horsemanship Training Program to learn best practices and strategies to effectively manage and care for the mules.

Friends funded the park's participation in over 40 **community outreach and engagement events**.

These local events included the Festival of Books, Rodeo Parade, Holiday Parade, Naturalization Ceremony, Junior Ranger Programs, and many more. In addition to the creation of Red Hills Speaker Series, Poetry in the Park, and Art in the Park. Additionally, Friends partnered with Western National Park Association to fund the creation of the Park's Mobile Visitor Center.



Friends Board Member Catherine Bartlett"



Friends supported the park's 12 **youth hiking clubs, Education Rangers, and Cactus Rangers**. Each club has 18 students and is led

by an Education Ranger from a local Title 1 school who organizes monthly hikes, bi-annual camps, and environmental activities at the park for the 245 students.



Friends provided support for 10,000 youth from 80 different schools in southern Arizona to visit Saguaro National Park for place-based **environmental education field trips**. The cost of transportation is a barrier for many schools to participate in field trips. Support from Friends allows the field trips to be free and provides a more equitable opportunity for all youth participate.



Support from Friends allowed the park to install and provide **free public Wi-Fi and live-feed webcams** at both Visitor Centers. The Wi-Fi gives visitors access to digital content and the ability to download the National Park Service App,



which provides a custom, self-guided experience at the park. In addition to increasing visitor safety, accessibility, and reducing the park's printing needs. The live-feed webcams allow everyone to enjoy a live look at saguaros, wildlife, mountains, sunsets and the javelinas who relax at Rincon Mountain Visitor Center each summer.

Friends funded a **Wellness Training** for park staff with a psychologist that focuses on working with employees at federal land management agencies. The training consisted of group discussions and individual meetings to implement mental and physical wellness strategies individually and through work groups at Saguaro National Park.

Friends support will allow Saguaro National Park to become designated as an **Urban Night Sky Place** with the International Dark-Sky Association in 2023. Friends purchased 83 replacement light fixtures that have been installed at the park. This significant reduction in light pollution will protect the night sky in the park, allow for greater star visibility, and reduce environmental consequences for people, wildlife, and our climate.



Friends funded the park's annual **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** to celebrate and recognize the important work of volunteers. Volunteers are vital and help increase the park's capacity to complete projects and deliver programs.



Friends provided funding from the Wildlife Adoption Program to support the maintenance of **wildlife cameras** with real-time video capability that are set up at 25 priority wildlife corridors and water sources. These cameras are vital in helping the park document wildlife and develop conservation strategies. Funds from the Wildlife Adoption Program were also used to support important **research on desert iguanas and leopard lizards**. This radio telemetry study documented the large lizards and will help to protect their small populations.





Friends provided funding from the Adopt-A-Saguaro Program to support the annual **Saguaro Blooms Project**. This long-term and comprehensive project is collecting vital data on the park's namesake plant and documenting the impact of climate change in the Sonoran Desert. The research consists of photographing the buds, flowers, and fruit from each saguaro on the same ten random plots in each district of Saguaro National Park and documenting each plants height, arms, and circumference.



Friends funded a comprehensive **assessment of historic Manning Camp**. This information provided the park with a preservation checklist and strategy to maintain the log cabin and continue its use as a base of operations for research projects, trail work, and fire management in the Saguaro Wilderness.

Support from Friends reestablished the **Bicycle Ranger Program**



at the park and provided these rangers and Public Search & Rescue volunteers with equipment and supplies to provide first aid. This helped to keep visitors safe on the trails at Saguaro National Park.



## Superintendent's Report

On behalf of the National Park Service and Saguaro National Park I want to express my sincere thanks to the 531 individuals who volunteered in 2022. Volunteers are essential for completing visitor services and many critical behind-the-scenes tasks to maintain the long-term health of the park's resources. This past year, volunteer duties included staffing the visitor centers, leading nature hikes, presenting environmental education programs to school and community groups, conducting Junior Ranger programs and day camps, assisting park biologists and botanists with research projects, pulling non-native invasive plants, maintenance functions, trail rehabilitation and maintenance, and patrolling trails on foot, bicycle, and horseback.



Leah McGinnis

I continue to be grateful for your generous support of our official philanthropic partner Friends of Saguaro. They are transparent, accountable, and careful stewards of your gifts. Our collaborative partnership with Friends is truly remarkable. It is nationally recognized and demonstrates the significant accomplishments that can be achieved in a public-private partnership. We are a model for programs and best practices for both National Parks and other Friends groups. Thank you for your commitment to help preserve, protect, and enhance the fragile environment and unique cultural heritage of the Sonoran Desert at Saguaro National Park.

## Executive Director's Report

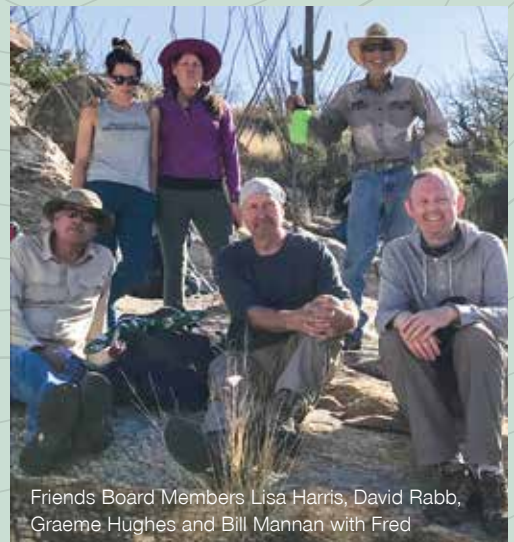
In 2022, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the park with over \$492,000 to protect wildlife and habitat, preserve cultural resources, promote environmental education, improve recreational trails, enhance visitor experiences, and build environmental stewardship at Saguaro National Park.



Fred Stula, MPA

We are participating in the Millions for Tucson Raffle sponsored by the Jim Click Automotive Team (page 5). I hope you'll take the opportunity to enter the raffle and purchase your chance(s) to win a new 2023 Ford Bronco Raptor! I also want to thank Mr. Click for his generosity to Friends of Saguaro and to the other nonprofits throughout the Tucson community participating in the raffle. Each nonprofit keeps 100% of the proceeds from the tickets they sell, so each ticket you buy from Friends directly benefits the park. Tickets for this year's raffle can also be purchased on our website.

The ability of Friends to help the park depends on you – our donors, volunteers, and advocates – and we are grateful for your support. Without your efforts, the park wouldn't exist as we know it today. If you have any questions, feedback, or are interested in joining our Board, please feel free to contact me directly at (520) 733-8610 or [fosnp@friendsofsaguaro.org](mailto:fosnp@friendsofsaguaro.org).



Friends Board Members Lisa Harris, David Rabb, Graeme Hughes and Bill Mannan with Fred



## Friends Board Member Goes the Extra Mile!

Thank you to our Board Member Nick Fox for running the Vacation Races Saguaro Half Marathon at Old Tucson Studios to raise funds and awareness for our mission!

## Two Important Grants

**1 Thank you to National Gypsum** for selecting Friends to receive \$25,000 grant as part of their national Giving Tuesday campaign. Friends was chosen based on the impact of our effective, efficient, and equitable collaborative work with Saguaro National Park.

**2 Thank you to the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee and the NFL Foundation in partnership with Arizona Community Foundation** for selecting Friends to receive a \$12,500 Super Bowl Legacy grant. Friends was chosen based on our longstanding commitment with Saguaro National Park to fund and deliver high-quality programs and projects that provide equitable opportunities to connect youth with place-based environmental education.



## Mule Packing Program at Saguaro National Park

Thanks to your generous support on Arizona Gives Day in 2023, Friends exceeded its fundraising goal and Pee-wee will retire later this year! The Mule Packing Program is vital for Saguaro National Park. 77% of the park is congressionally designated Wilderness, where gas or electric powered vehicles are prohibited. To complete trail work, research projects, and fire management in these remote, roadless areas, mules are used to haul the supplies, gear, and equipment. In 2022, the mules made 40 trips that covered 548 miles and carried 27,489 pounds. Currently, the park has seven mules: Pee-wee, Chico, Red, Ruby, Trigger, Shorty, and Big Boy.

# Support the Park with Saguaro and Wildlife Adoptions!

One of the ways you can help **FOSNP** support the Park is by “adopting” a saguaro, or one of a variety of animal species found in this ecosystem. You can make these adoptions yourself, or present them as gifts for family and friends. We’ll put the person’s name on an adoption certificate (that includes a picture of the saguaro, or animal species that’s being adopted), and send them a letter explaining why the protection of the species at Saguaro National Park is important for biodiversity.



All adoption proceeds are placed in restricted accounts whose revenues are used exclusively to support wildlife and habitat research at the park. Utilizing our Adopt a Saguaro revenues, we’ve provided the Park with more than \$95,000 in the past several years to assist with the decennial saguaro census, support the PIT tag identification project, and protect native habitat by removing invasive buffelgrass. Utilizing our wildlife adoption revenues, we’ve provided the park with more than \$85,000 in recent years to support Gila monster research, desert tortoise monitoring, bat surveys, and mountain lion and bobcat research.

## Please visit our website to make an adoption



## SUPPORT FOSNP...

### And You Could Win a 2023 FORD BRONCO RAPTOR

With your \$25 contribution you could win one of **THREE** great prizes!

- Grand Prize is a 2023 FORD Bronco Raptor
- 2nd Prize is two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world (subject to conditions)
- 3rd Prize is \$5,000 cash!

Friends of Saguaro keeps 100% of the proceeds from the tickets we sell!

**2023** WIN ONE OF **THREE** GREAT PRIZES!

**2ND PRIZE**  
TWO ROUND-TRIP, FIRST-CLASS AIRLINE TICKETS TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD\*

**3RD PRIZE**  
\$5,000 CASH!

**GRAND PRIZE**  
NEW 2023 FORD BRONCO RAPTOR  
\*Image for illustration purposes only

**TICKET PRICE \$25**  
RAFFLE BENEFITING TUCSON CHARITIES  
100% OF FUNDS RAISED STAYS HERE

THE JIM CLICK MILLIONS FOR TUCSON RAFFLE

The Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a NEW 2023 Ford Bronco Raptor to the entire community to be used as the featured prize in our ongoing effort to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations in Southern Arizona. With your \$25 contribution you could win this stunning vehicle or one of two other great prizes! The best part is that 100% of your contribution will support Southern Arizona charities that keep all the proceeds from the maximum 100,000 tickets which will be sold. The drawing will be held on December 14, 2023. Entries must be received by December 8, 2023 at Raffle Headquarters.

For campaign and ticket information, contact the Millions for Tucson Raffle Management Team at 520.342.5210 or at: [jimclickraffle@tucsonraffle.com](mailto:jimclickraffle@tucsonraffle.com)

\*Restrictions apply. Please see Millions for Tucson Raffle Rules | [millionsfortucson.org](http://millionsfortucson.org)  
Raffle Management Headquarters: 1926 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 102, Tucson, AZ

## Please visit our website to purchase your tickets

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October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

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**Our thanks and appreciation to all our donors during the two last quarters;  
we apologize for any errors or omissions.**

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## Friends of Saguaro National Park

2700 North Kinney Road  
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## Mark Your Calendar!

The **2023 Friendship Dinner & Auction** will take place on **Sunday, October 15th** at **Tanque Verde Ranch**.

## How You Can Help SNP

1. **Visit the Park**  
[www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit)
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