



Saguaro Rib

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

Friends Provides Over \$395,000 to support Saguaro National Park in 2021!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors in 2021, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the Park with \$395,973 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 supported the engagement of 335 volunteers who completed over 16,742 hours of service to the park. Time and talent valued by Independent Sector at \$477,817.



In 2021, Friends and Saguaro National Park signed a new long-term Philanthropic Partnership Agreement for ten years. This collaborative and mutually beneficial long-term strategic partnership would not have been possible with the generous support from our donors and volunteers. Thank you!

Friends continued to successfully implement the **Next Generation Ranger Corps Internship Program**. In 2021, the program reached a milestone when the 25th graduate was hired by a federal land management agency. Based on the incredible success of the program, it was extended for an additional five years with the National Park Service.



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 over 80 interns who receive targeted training, mentoring, and skill-building work experiences. 74% of the participants were women, 59% were from underserved communities, and 72% achieved Public Land Corps hiring authority. 95% of the graduates have gone on to work in the environmental field, 28 work for federal land management agencies, and 14 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 Douglas Springs Trail, Carrillo Trail, Loma Verde Trail, Manning Camp Trail, Three Tank Trail, Hugh Norris Trail, Wildhorse Trail, Wasson Peak Trail, King Canyon Trail, Freeman Homestead Trail, Hope Camp Trail, and Bridal Wreath Falls Trail.



(continued on page 2)



Friends Provides Over \$395,000 to support Saguaro National Park in 2021! *continued*



Superintendent's Report

On behalf of the National Park Service and Saguaro National Park I want to express my sincere thanks to the 325 individuals who volunteered in 2021. 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. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, this past year, volunteer duties included staffing the visitor centers, leading nature hikes, presenting virtual environmental education programs to school and community groups, conducting virtual "Junior Ranger" programs and day camps, assisting biologists with research projects, pulling non-native invasive plants, maintenance functions, trail rehabilitation and maintenance, and patrolling trails on foot and horseback.

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.

Leah McGinnis



Executive Director's Report

In 2021, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the Park with over \$395,000 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.

We are participating in the Millions for Tucson Raffle sponsored by the Jim Click Automotive Team (page 7). I hope you'll take the opportunity to enter the raffle and purchase your chance(s) to win a new 2022 **Ford Maverick Lariat Hybrid!** 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.

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 or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at (520) 733-8610 or fosnp@friendsofsaguaro.org.

Fred Stula, MPA



Friends funding from Arizona Gives Day in 2021 supported the purchase of a **new pack mule** named Petey and allowed Rusty to retire. Rusty now happily lives at a ranch in northern Arizona as a horse companion.



Friends supported the Park's 8 **youth hiking clubs**. Each club has 10-18 students and is led by an Education Ranger from a local school who organizes monthly hikes and bi-annual camps at the Park.



Friends supported the **Junior Ranger Program**



at Saguaro National Park. The impact of the pandemic increased the participation in the Junior Program by over 200% and Friends helped to provide the additional materials and the creation of digital content to meet the increased need. Friends funding also supported the Junior Ranger Program at the John Venezuela Youth Center in south Tucson and at Banner Diamond Children's Hospital.

Friends provided the **Hiking and Camping Guides** that are handed out to Park visitors at the visitor centers. These guides include maps, information, and tips on how to stay safe while visiting the park. In 2021, Saguaro National Park had a record-breaking 1.1 million visitors.



Friends funded the data collection for a comprehensive **Visitor Use Study** at Saguaro National Park. This consists of mobile trail counters installed throughout the Park and other data collection

instruments. This vital data will help the Park direct more resources to higher-use areas and help with future planning such as trailhead parking needs, trail maintenance needs, visitor center parking needs, and road maintenance. The last Visitor Use Study was completed over 15 years ago when the Park had less than 700,000 annual visitors.



Friends support will allow Saguaro National Park to become designated as an **Urban Night Sky Place** with the International Dark-Sky Association. Friends purchased the 73 replacement light fixtures that are being installed throughout 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 provided funding from the Wildlife Adoption Program to support the purchase of 20 **wildlife cameras** with real-time video capability that were set up at 16 important wildlife corridors and water sources. These cameras helped gather important scientific data on how different species interact with fences in the Park. This data helped Saguaro National Park prioritize the removal of old barbed wire fences that were used for cattle grazing in the 1970s and update required Park boundary fences to be wildlife friendly. These cameras are vital in helping the park document wildlife in the high-elevation forests of the Rincon Mountain District and in the low-elevation of the desert floor in the Tucson Mountain District-which is a prominent wildlife migration corridor to Ironwood Forest National Monument.



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. This research has shown that saguaros are blooming earlier each year and that they flower in a circular east to west pattern.



Friends funded the planning, design, and installation of **pollinator gardens** around both Visitor Centers at Saguaro National Park.



These gardens will only harvest water off the roofs of adjacent buildings and parking lots. The plants for the gardens were grown in a local greenhouse and the seeds were harvested from



native plants in the Park. Two of the four gardens at the Rincon Mountain District were completed in 2021 and two of the four planned gardens at the Tucson Mountain District will be completed in 2022.



Friends annually provides support for 15,000 students in southern Arizona to visit Saguaro National Park for place-based **environmental education field trips**. Due to the pandemic, 3,500 students were able to participate in 2021. However, online programs and virtual visits were delivered to 4,525 students throughout the country at no cost.

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 \$75,000 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 \$65,000 in recent years to support Gila monster research, desert tortoise monitoring, bat surveys, and mountain lion and bobcat research.



Yes! I want to support the Park with a tax-deductible donation by adopting a:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saguaro | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Lion | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Tortoise | <input type="checkbox"/> Gila Monster | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote | <input type="checkbox"/> Javelina |

Name to Go on Certificate _____

Address to Mail Certificate _____

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your e-Mail _____

Your Phone _____

Enclosed is my check (payable to FOSNP) for \$35 for each adoption

I prefer to pay by: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card # _____ Exp Date _____





BENCHES AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

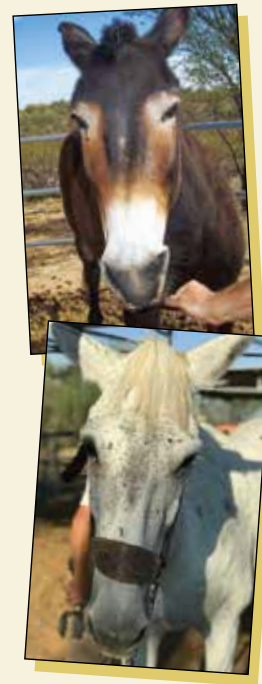
In 2019, Friends provided support for Saguaro National Park to resurface and redevelop the Desert Ecology and Mica View trails in the Rincon Mountain District (east) and the Desert Discovery trail in the Tucson Mountain District (west) of Saguaro National Park to meet ADA requirements. During the redevelopment, the park decided that permanent, accessible benches are needed along each of these three popular trails.



Your donation will allow Friends to purchase and install a new bench on your choice of the Desert Ecology, Mica View or Desert Discovery trail. Recognition will be provided for ten years on plaques at each trailhead. Only 16 benches are available. Please visit the Friends website and click on "News and Events" for more information.

Mule Packing Program at Saguaro National Park

Thanks to your generous support on Arizona Gives Day in 2022, Friends exceeded its fundraising goal and both Patty and Goose 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 2021, the mules made 49 trips that covered 860 miles and carried 36,307 pounds. Currently, the park has seven mules: Goose, Pee-Wee, Chico, Red, Patty, Trigger, and Petey.



Our Donors

October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

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

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(continued on page 6)

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

I want to purchase _____ raffle tickets (at \$25/ticket or 5 tix for \$100).

I understand that my contribution to *Friends of Saguaro* for the purchase of raffle tickets is NOT tax-deductible.

- Enclosed is my check payable to Friends of Saguaro National Park.
- Please charge my credit card Visa MasterCard American Express

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Please provide your name, address and phone number below. Your raffle ticket(s) will be entered in the drawing, with the receipt(s) mailed back to you. Persons must be 21 years of age or older to win. The winner will be responsible for all taxes, registration, and travel to claim the vehicle. Purchase of tickets is NOT limited to Arizona residents and businesses. A maximum of 100,000 tickets will be sold. All raffle ticket entries must be received by December 10, 2021; the drawing will be held on December 9, 2022 and the winner need not be present to win.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Your phone number will NOT be added to any telemarketing list; it will ONLY be used for contacting you if you win.

Friends of Saguaro National Park

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Mark Your Calendar!

The **2022 Friendship Dinner & Auction** will take place on **Sunday, October 16th** at **Tanque Verde Ranch**.

How You Can Help SNP

1. **Visit the Park** for a fun, educational and free Interpretive Program. View the full program list at www.friendsofsaguaro.org
2. **Donate to FOSNP** to support the projects and programs at SNP www.friendsofsaguaro.org
3. **Advocate** to protect and preserve Saguaro National Park www.npca.org
4. **Sign-up** for the FOSNP e-newsletter
5. **“Like,” “Follow” and “Share”** Facebook posts from SNP and FOSNP