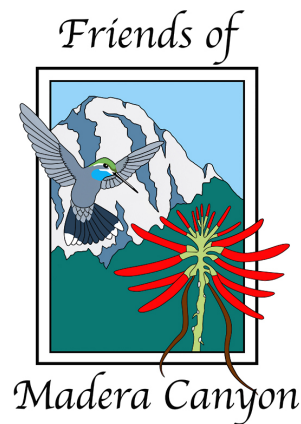


ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

JANUARY 23, 2016



Highlights of 2015

2015 has been an outstanding year for us. It started in January with a well-attended Annual Meeting, where we heard a terrific historical presentation on the progress and programs of the FoMC given by our own Doug Moore. Also in January we had a very successful fundraising party at the Madera Clubhouse in Quail Creek. This event was attended by 200 people; who enjoyed music, Tom Vezo photographs, a silent auction, good food and an interesting talk by Randy Serraglio of the Sky Island Alliance. The event raised over \$ 6, 000 to support our various programs, scholarships and operational expenses. Carole deRivera chaired this wonderful event.

We also continued our adult Educational Series at Quail Creek with a presentation in the spring on *Birds of Madera Canyon* by Jeff Babson and two in the fall: one given by Doug Moore on *The Nature of Madera Canyon*, and one on *Eagles, Hawks and other Raptors of Southern Arizona*, by Jeff Babson. Each of these presentations were well attended by over 100 people at each one. The series will start again on February 15, 2016, with a presentation by John Murphy, a Herpetology and Amphibians expert, on *Reptiles and Amphibians of Madera Canyon and Green Valley*. Then on April 18, 2016, Vincent Pinto of Ravens-Way Wild Journey, will present a talk on *Arizona's Sky Islands; a Biodiversity Hotspot*. The presentations will take place at the Madera Clubhouse in Quail Creek at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the Concierge Desk there, and at Meredith's Hallmark, the GV Chamber of Commerce and at the door. Mark your calendars for these events. There will also be two events in the fall series on October 17th and December 12th, 2016.

Of course our "*Music in the Canyon*" series was a big success again last year – The MITC team in 2015 was lead by Anita Woodward, Susan Beck-Brown and Kim Boswell. They did a terrific job. For 2016 the team it is Anita, Susan Beck-Brown, Mary Jo Simunaci and Louise Gibbeson. We look forward to another great series of musical entertainment in the Canyon.

Merchandise Sales: Total = 5,055.75 Net after expenses = 1,203.56

Grants: White Elephant = 2,800.00 GGVCF = 3,000.00

Education

Once again the educational programs of the Friends of Madera Canyon were many and varied. Education Director Doug Moore expressed appreciation for support from Education Chair Jim Woodward, Pres. Tom Purdon and the Board. Consistent with our motto of “Conservation Through Education”, the 4th grade programs included: - spring & fall walks with 220 students from four area schools (Continental, Great Expectations, San Cayetano and Desert Christian), including four pre-walk school sessions. Since 1988 our program has shown over 10,000 students the wonders of nature in Madera Canyon. Nature walks were also held for two local Boy Scout Troops and participating parents. – The Traveling Nature Education Program went to Anza Trail Elementary School where 150 4th grade (5 classes) were given the TNEP AV and specimen presentations.

Director Doug Moore lead 11 member/docent community nature walks as well as the popular monsoon season Bug Night observations at White House in July. He did five MC nature programs to area groups – provided “Canyon Notes for the Green Valley New, updated our Jr. Ranger Program pamphlet – taught a four week OLLI course in March – led a MC field trip and workshop for local teachers for the SRER program – served as liaison for the new MC bridge rehab project with the Sky Island Alliance, Borderlands, the USFS and the FoMC

The Education Program again sponsored the International Migratory Bird Day in May- and, along with docents and volunteers, provided our information materials at the Buenos Aires NWR Grasslands Fair, Tucson Earth Day, Sahurarita Pecan Festival (also the Kids Coloring Table) and Reid Park Zoo Safari Nights. We continue to advocate to eventually attain a “Special Recognition Status” with the USFS for Madera Canyon, in order to protect flora, fauna and many species from collection and poaching. Doug and the Board wish to pass on a big THANK YOU! to all docents and volunteers who participated and helped make 2015 a success.

Scholarship

The Friends of Madera Canyon Bud and Mary Gode Scholarship continued its support of existing scholars with awards of \$1,000 each to Norma Rivera and Lauren Badertscher (2012 recipients), Kalyn Miller (2013), and Felix Wharton (2014). The 2015 recipient, Christopher Schwartzentruber, received \$1,500 as per a decision by the FOMC Board of Directors to increase the annual award by 50%. Norma Rivera graduated in December, 2015 and is now employed at the University of Northern Arizona from which she received her degree. Lauren Badertscher is expected to graduate in June, 2016. We anticipate selecting a new student for another scholarship grant this Spring. The award will be presented at our annual Volunteer Breakfast on April 9, 2016. Our THANKS to Sondra Dexter the Scholarship Coordinator who does a fantastic job on this important program.

Membership

As of January 6, 2016 we have 524 total paid memberships including: household, lifetime and business memberships. This total includes some 800 plus individual members. In addition, there are about thirty-five members that have not renewed. We have recently installed a new software program that will allow us to track and remind members who are due to renew on the anniversary month one year after they last paid or first joined the Friends. We will also send out a second reminder. If they have not renewed after four to six months, they will be put into an inactive file. Prior to having the new membership and donor software, we only did a membership renewal drive each fall along with our annual fundraising campaign. The new software program will also allow us to keep more accurate information on our volunteers and our donors. As most of you know, our organization is dependent on our membership dues, donations, fundraising, and a few small grants we apply for and are fortunate enough to get. If you are a lifetime paid up member we urge you to consider making a donation each year when the annual appeal or fundraising letter comes out. You can also become members or make donations on our website at www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org. Please also consider making a bequest when you do your estate planning. It would be greatly appreciated and help secure our organization for the future.

Fundraising

As noted in the Highlights remarks and in the Financials, we have had a very successful year with a number of fundraisers to help us execute our mission and goals and keep the organization viable for the future. In addition to those listed above we participated in the Jim Click Ford Mustang Raffle and sold nearly \$2000 worth of tickets. The "In Memory Of" part of our Honor Wall will add significantly to our funding sources as well, though half of those fees will be reserved and restricted for the care and maintenance of the Honor Wall.

We continue to depend on our membership renewals and our general fundraising campaign to help us establish a firm base for our efforts. The grants we receive, along with the other activities such as our Educational Series, our Music in the Canyon Series, the Jim Click Raffle and other gifts we receive, all help to make our bottom line and to secure our future

(see some of the Upcoming Events listed below)

Volunteer Data

We are required to report our estimated hours of volunteer work and miles driven in our work on behalf of the USFS and the Friends of Madera Canyon. Some of these numbers are best estimate and depend on reporting accuracy. We do have a new software program that may help us for 2016, but like any other data gathering, it depends on accurate input. We "count" on you!

Miles Driven 2015 - 24,917

Miles Driven 2014 - 24,912

Hours Worked 2015 - 2,874

Hours Worked 2014 - 2,543

Cars Counted 2015 - 93,714 Cars Counted 2014 - 106,867 (times 2.5/car = 234,285 visitors in 2015, down slightly from 2014, possibly due to the new bridge construction)

Board - 2015

Tom Purdon, President
Jim Woodward, Vice-president
Dita-Erika Hagen, Secretary
Anne Rendon, Treasurer
Carole de Rivera, Judy Maury,
Rozanne Roman, Judy Thoreson

Board - 2016

Jim Woodward, President
Tom Purdon, Vice-President
Louise Gibbeson, Secretary
Anne Rendon, Treasurer
Judy Maury, Rozanne Roman
Carole deRivera, Tony Simunaci,
Willem Von Kempen

The Board wishes to thank all members, volunteers, donors and others who generously support our mission

Upcoming Events- Please mark your calendars

< February 6, 2015 – 11:00 am - Chocolate Cookie Baking Contest at Posada Java, proceeds to benefit FOMC. Tom Purdon is one of the Judges, it is supposed to be the tasting, not how many cookies he can eat!!

< Every Third Thursday – The Coyote Grill at San Ignatio – BBQ night – Proceeds from the donation jar carried by the “Cowboy Shot Girl” are graciously donated to the Friends of Madera Canyon by the management of Coyote Grill. Come out and enjoy a great BBQ, some country music and benefit the Friends.

< Educational Series at Quail Creek – February 15, 2016 – 7 pm -John Murphy, photographer and ecology research scientist, speaking on “*Reptiles and Amphibians of Madera Canyon and Green Valley* – Buy tickets at the Concierge Desk at Madera Clubhouse at Quail Creek, Meredith’s Hallmark Shop, Green Valley Chamber of Commerce or at the door.

April 18, 2016 – Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse – 7 pm – Vincent Pinto, Wildlife biologist speaking on *Arizona’s Sky Islands: Biodiversity Hotspot!* – For tickets, see above listing.

Other Series dates are October 17, 2016 and December 16, 2016 at Quail Creek

< *Music in the Canyon* – Sundays in April – watch for email blasts, FOMC website: www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org, and other advertising for musical groups offered this year.

(TFP)

