The longest government shut down in history took place from December 22, 2018 through January 25, 2019. The 35 day shut down created problems at many national parks. Trash piled up, toilets overflowed and damage was caused to the natural and cultural resources. Saguaro did not experience any of those problems thanks to 30 amazing volunteers who picked up trash at the visitor centers, trail heads and picnic areas throughout the duration of the shutdown. Their efforts made Saguaro and Tucson a leading example of how a community can temporarily step in to keep a national park clean for visitors, when the government is not able to. Visit www.friendsofsaguaro.org to learn more about the volunteer efforts.

Thank you to our volunteers for donating your time and efforts! Saguaro National Park and Friends of Saguaro are truly grateful for your dedication and commitment.

The Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement has been released by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration for the I-11 corridor from Nogales to Wickenburg. It recommends building a new highway through the Avra Valley and also provides information on the No-Build Alternative, where transportation would remain on I-10 and I-19.

Friends is opposed to the Avra Valley route because of the negative environmental impact it will have on the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. The proposed corridor would run adjacent to the Park and; threaten the survival of native wildlife, disturb archeological sites, impede washes, increase the spread of invasive plants, degrade the visitor experience at Saguaro National Park and many, many more.

Saguaro National Park needs your help to protect it for future generations. The public comment period is now open and your comments are important. Please visit our website (www.friendsofsaguaro.org) to learn more and submit your comments by July 8th.
Superintendent’s Report

On behalf of the National Park Service and Saguaro National Park I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered in 2018. Volunteers at Saguaro perform many of the important functions that allow visitors to enjoy the park as well as many behind-the-scenes functions that are essential to maintaining 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 biologists with research projects, pulling non-native weeds, day-to-day maintenance functions, trail building and maintenance, and patrolling trails on foot and horseback.

Please generously support our official fundraising partner Friends of Saguaro. They are transparent, accountable and careful stewards of your gifts. The impact of your philanthropic support is evident every day and allows the park to deliver a first class experience for all visitors. Your commitment to help preserve, protect and enhance the fragile environment and unique cultural heritage of the Sonoran Desert at Saguaro National Park is appreciated.

Leah McGinnis

Executive Director’s Report

In 2018, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the Park with over $435,000 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. Additional information can be found on pages 4 and 5.

We are participating in the Millions for Tucson Raffle sponsored by the Jim Click Automotive Team (page 3). I hope you’ll take the opportunity to enter the raffle and purchase your chance(s) to win a 2019 Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit! 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
I want to purchase ___ raffle tickets (at $25/ticket or 5 tix for $100).

- 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 6, 2019; the drawing will be held on December 13, 2019 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.
Thanks to the generosity of our donors in 2018, Friends of Saguaro was able to provide the Park with $435,656 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 734 volunteers who completed over 33,000 hours of service to the Park.** Time and talent valued by Independent Sector at over $800,000.

**Friends funding supported 60 miles of trail maintenance and rehabilitation at the Manning Camp Trail, Loma Verde Trail and North Slope Trail.** In addition to bringing the Desert Discovery Trail, Desert Ecology Trail and Mica View Trail and Picnic Area into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Trail work in the remote congressionally designated wilderness areas of the Park is often completed with the use of pack mules (to haul equipment and supplies) and **Friends support enabled the Park to purchase a new lead riding mule, “Red.”**

**Friends funded the second year of High Elevation Natural and Cultural Resources Surveys in the Park.** The survey identified and mapped 12 plant species that have not been documented in the park in over 100 years, identified several new springs and discovered a large cave of significant archeological value.

**Friends provided funding for the Junior Ranger Program at Banner Diamond Children’s Hospital.** The program takes place in the library at the hospital and each patient receives an activity booklet and stuffed animal to take back to their room.

**77% of Saguaro National Park is congressionally designated Wilderness** and Friends supported the required research and character monitoring.

**Friends provided funding from the Adopt-A-Saguaro revenue for the Citizen Science Saguaro Flower Power Project** which helped the park complete a detailed study on the blooming patterns of saguaros and how climate change is causing the saguaros to bloom earlier.

**Friends supported the Park’s 7 youth hiking clubs.** Each club has 18 students and is led by an Education Ranger who organizes monthly hikes and bi-annual camps at the park.

**Friends funding supported the park’s popular Wilderness and Junior Ranger Camps** and provided scholarships to students in need.
Friends supported the park’s community outreach and engagement initiatives which allowed the park to participate in popular community events such as; the Tucson Festival of Books, Rodeo Parade, Holiday Parade of Lights and hold several special events at the park.

Friends continued to successfully implement the NextGen Ranger Corps Internship Program. The program has employed over 70 interns who receive targeted training, mentoring and work experiences. All of the graduates have gone on to work in the environmental field, 18 currently work for federal land management agencies and 10 work here at Saguaro. This program has expanded the parks capacity to complete research, maintain trails, deliver environmental education programs and provide the 1 million annual park visitors with a first class experience.

Friends provided School Transportation Reimbursements for all local schools and hiking clubs. This funding allowed over 15,000 youth from southern Arizona to visit the Park and participate in hands-on, place-based, Environmental Education programs.

Support Saguaro National Park in 2018!

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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:

- Saguaro
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat
- Black Bear
- Desert Tortoise
- Gila Monster
- Coyote
- 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 ________

Support the Park with Saguaro and Wildlife Adoptions!
Our Donors

October 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

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

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(continued on page 5)
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. **Make a donation** 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

Mark Your Calendar!

The 2019 Friendship Dinner & Auction will be held on Sunday, October 20th at Tanque Verde Ranch.