



Saguaro Rib

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

Your Support Has Allowed Important Work to Continue at Saguaro National Park!

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives. Facemasks, social distancing and hand sanitizer have become commonplace. However, your generous support has allowed important work to continue at Saguaro National Park!



Spring Survey

The spring survey was conducted by NextGens and Park Staff to document springs and create an emergency water source guide for hikers in the Rincon Mountains. 25 miles of streams above 6,000 feet in elevation were surveyed and results were amazing! A total of 7 perennial springs were found and 5 spring expressions (wet areas) were found.



Discovering springs in Saguaro National Park is important because it provides a better understanding of where wildlife and people can find water in the driest times. Springs are also home to rare plants. During this survey, 6 new plants never previously found in Saguaro National Park were discovered; black-stem spleenwort, forked spleenwort, woolly lip fern, mountain saucer-flower, Mt. Davis brickellbush and Chihuahuan brickellbush. Also, a rare high-elevation orchid that was last documented in the park in 1983, striped coral root, was rediscovered.



Superintendent's Report



The Visitor Centers at Saguaro National Park have reopened. However, due to limited staffing they are open from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 5 days per week, Thursday through

Monday and will continue to be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mitigations have been put in place including, additional hand sanitizer, rigorous cleaning schedules, plexi-barriers between staff and visitors, and a limit on the number of visitors permitted in the building at once.

Thank you for generously supporting our official fundraising partner Friends of Saguaro National Park. Your philanthropic support is evident every day and has allowed Saguaro National Park to continue its important work despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Your commitment to help preserve, protect and enhance the fragile environment and unique cultural heritage of the Sonoran Desert at Saguaro National Park is inspiring and truly appreciated.

Leah McGinnis

Executive Director's Report



The pandemic has presented many challenges for nonprofit organizations across the country. Thanks to your generous support, Friends has been able to maintain funding commitments and Saguaro National Park and our NextGens have been able to continue their important work this year, without interruption.

Our collaborative partnership with Saguaro National Park is truly remarkable. It is nationally recognized and demonstrates the true impact of the amazing accomplishments that can be achieved in a public-private partnership. We are a model for programs and best practices for both Friends groups and other National Parks. I am so proud to be part of this important and transformational work.

On behalf of the Friends Board of Directors, I want to express our sincere appreciation for your commitment to help protect wildlife and habitat, preserve cultural resources, promote environmental education, improve recreational trails, enhance visitor experiences and build environmental stewardship at Saguaro National Park. Our ability to help the Park depends on you- our donors, volunteers and advocates- and we are grateful for your support. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at (520) 733-8610 or fospnp@friendsofsaguaro.org.

Fred Stula

Night-Blooming Cereus Survey

The Night-Blooming Cereus or "Queen of the Night" is a cactus that blooms for one night each year. The survey covered 315 acres and was conducted by NextGens, volunteers and Park Staff. 283 different plants were documented at the Rincon Mountain District and Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. This cactus was also thought to be quite rare, but may appear to be much more common in certain areas of the park. This study has helped the park identify more of cereus cacti, monitor their health and protect them from any potential threats. The Night-Blooming Cereus blooms each year in late June or early July and you can sign-up to witness it at Saguaro National Park.



Wildlife Cameras

Springs are a vital resource and it's important to know how they are used by wildlife. 12 wildlife cameras with video capability were set up at 10 of the newly discovered springs. The cameras captured mountain lions, black bears, turkeys, coatis, deer, skunks, squirrels, a rare eastern cottontail rabbit and a Mexican Spotted Owl along with the first documented young individual of this federally threatened species in years. Please follow our Facebook page to see more of the photos and videos.



Great American Outdoors Act

The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law on August 4th. This legislation will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which helps to purchase and protect land located within park boundaries. It will also establish the Public Lands Legacy Fund that will provide funding for deferred maintenance. The funding will come from annual offshore energy and mineral rights receipts, not from taxpayers. This legislation will directly help Saguaro National Park by providing funds to acquire new properties located within the park's boundary and providing funds to complete deferred maintenance on roads and trails. To learn more about the Great American Outdoors Act please visit www.friendsofsaguaro.org and click on the link in "News & Events."



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 _____



Our Donors

April 1 – September 30, 2020

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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Visitor Services

In accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health guidelines, Saguaro National Park's Visitor Centers were closed from March through September. During that time, Park Staff and NextGens were stationed in the outdoor patio spaces at the Visitor Centers to answer questions while wearing masks and practicing social distancing.



Friends Receives Two Important Grants

1 Thank you to the National Park Foundation for approving our \$125,000 grant application to be a pilot site for the Continuum of Engagement initiative. This initiative is designed to create a model for inclusive park engagement that results in inclusive park stewardship. Friends was selected based on our track record for creating the next generation of diverse park supporters. In addition to the sustainability of our programs through the generous support from our donors.



2 Thank you to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management for approving our \$83,000 grant application to engage Tucson youth in controlling invasive plants. This project will remove invasive plants in desert stream habitats in Saguaro National Park. This initiative will reduce the spread of wildfires and create access to streams pools (known locally as tinajas) for the lowland leopard frog, Sonoran mud turtle, Gila topminnow and other wildlife.



Virtual Rangers

Through the generous support from our donors each year, 15,000 youth from 80 different schools in southern Arizona are able to visit Saguardo National Park for placed-based environmental education programs delivered by NextGens, volunteers and Park Staff. Due to the pandemic, schools are using distance learning and traveling to the park is not possible. To bring the park to them, Friends has supported the development and implementation of the Virtual Ranger Program created by the environmental education staff and NextGens. This live virtual program is fun, engaging, educational and free! To learn more and sign your class up for a virtual ranger visit, please visit www.nps.gov and click on “learn about the park,” then click “education.”



22nd Annual Virtual Dinner & Auction

The 22nd Annual Virtual Dinner & Auction raised \$22,000 to support Saguardo National Park! 151 tickets for the live event were purchased including 70 dinner gift certificates for Tucson Originals Restaurants, which will support local restaurants during these difficult times. The live

virtual event contained presentations from Friends, Saguardo National Park and featured the debut of “Our Favorite Places in the Park,” a video created by our NextGen interns. To learn more about the event and watch the video please visit www.friendsofsaguardo.org and click on the link in “News & Events.”



Facility Maintenance & Trails

The pandemic has restricted travel and many people have opted for staycations. This created an opportunity for many residents of southern Arizona to rediscover Saguardo National Park and its picnic areas and 200 miles of recreational trails. Park staff and NextGens have been hard at work keeping the park clean and completing trail work with strict health and safety practices.



TUCSON ORIGINALS RESTAURANTS



Tucson Electric Power

Friends of Saguaro National Park

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Tucson, AZ 85731-8998

2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743

Website: www.friendsofsaguaro.org

E-mail: fosnp@friendsofsaguaro.org

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How You Can Help SNP

1. **Visit the park**
1. **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