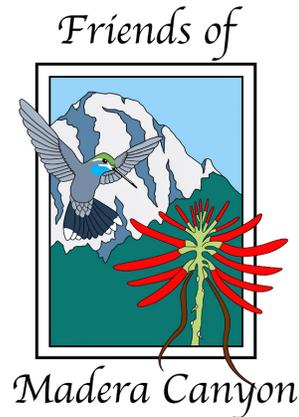


ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

JANUARY 21, 2017



Highlights of 2016

2016 has been another outstanding year for us. It started in January with a record-breaking attendance at our Annual Meeting, where we heard a wonderful presentation on the avian population both in and around the area of Madera Canyon.

We continued our adult Educational Series at Quail Creek with a presentation on February 15, 2016 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, gave an exciting talk on *Arizona's Sky Islands; a Biodiversity Hotspot*. On October 17th Mark Heitlinger presented the history and ongoing projects of the Santa Rita Experimental Range and on December 12th, 2016 John Titre of the U. S. Forest Service gave a wonderful talk on his career, Madera Canyon and some of the history of the Forest Service.

Our first Lecture Series presentation of 2017 was by Jeff Babson on January 16th. Watch the Friend's website, www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org for further 2017 talks. All presentations take place at the Madera Clubhouse in Quail Creek at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the Concierge Desk there and at the door.

Of course our "*Music in the Canyon*" series was a big success again in 2016 – The MITC team in 2016 was led by Anita Woodward, Susan Beck-Brown, Mary Jo Simunaci and Louise Gibbeson. They did a terrific job. For 2017 the team it is Anita Woodward, Susan Beck-Brown, Louise Gibbeson and Donna Martin. We look forward to another great series of musical entertainment in the Canyon. The concerts will all be in April at 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoons at the Proctor Ramada. The dates are April 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th, skipping Easter Sunday.

Education

The Friends of Madera Canyon Education Program and Education Committee were active again in 2016. Education Director Doug Moore expressed appreciation for the indispensable assistance of Education Chair Louise Gibbeson, and the help and support of Pres. Jim Woodward and the FoMC Board. The Ed. Committee also wanted to recognize and thank Vice-Pres. Tom Purdon for his grant writing efforts and continued success procuring education funds from the GV White Elephant.

Consistent with our motto of "Conservation through Education", the 4th grade programs included:

Spring & Fall nature walks with 251 students from five area schools (Continental, Great Expectations, San Cayetano, Sopori and Desert Christian), including five pre-walk in-school prep sessions. Since 1988 our program has introduced over 11,000 students to the wonders of nature in Madera Canyon. Nature walks were also held for one local Boy Scout Troop and one home-school group, both with participating parents. The Traveling Nature Education Program (TNEP) went to Anza Trail Elementary School again in 2016 where 140 4th grade (4 classes) were given the TNEP AV presentation (Doug also met with Sahuarita Schools principals in December about adding Sahuarita Intermediate and Copper View schools to the TNEP participants in 2017).

Director Doug Moore led 9 member/docent/community nature walks as well as the popular monsoon season Bug Night observations at White House in July. He did four MC nature programs to area groups and wrote several "Canyon Chatter" articles. Doug taught a four week OLLI course in February (3 classroom sessions and 2 MC field trips) and taught a class session for local teachers for the SRER Teachers Workshop in Nov. Doug participated in a Graptopetalum plant survey in Madera and Josephine Canyon for UA/USFS and is involved with a local botany group starting a new comprehensive a plant species survey of the Santa Rita Mountains. He is also writing an Interpretive Nature Guide to the Proctor Nature Loop Trail to be published on the FoMC website and served on the FoMC Honor Wall Committee.

The Education Program sponsored two "Kids in the Canyon" days in spring and fall for local children and their parents and, along with docents and volunteers, provided activities and information materials at the Sahuarita Pecan Festival and two 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

Scholarship

Friends of Madera Canyon Bud and Mary Gode Scholarship

Ten years ago funding for a scholarship became available through the generosity of the family of Bud Gode, a long time member of FOMC. Named in honor of Bud and his wife, the Friends of Madera Canyon Bud and Mary Gode Scholarship is now fully funded through additional donations and grants. In 2015 we were able to increase the award from \$1000 per year to \$1500.

While it was challenging in the early years to receive viable applications, we have been pleased with the caliber of students who have responded in the past five years. Currently, we have had four recipients who graduated with degrees in the natural sciences and three who are current students doing well.

One of our shining stars, Norma Rivera, attended Nogales High School, graduated early from Northern Arizona University, and is now in Vienna, Austria pursuing a master's degree in botany. Our 2016 winner, Kathryn Miller, had an impressive resume of accomplishments including developing rainfall harvesting terraces at her high school and collaborating with the Audubon Research Ranch to develop a herbarium for the Canelo Hills Cienega Preserve. It is worth noting that she was our second recipient from the small high school in Patagonia.

We look forward to continuing our support of such worthy stewards of our future.

Our THANKS goes to Sondra Dexter, the Scholarship Coordinator, who does a fantastic job on this important program.

Membership

As of January 6, 2017 we have 424 total paid memberships including: household, lifetime and business memberships. This total includes some 750 plus individual members. In addition, there are a number of members that have not renewed. We have recently installed a new software program that allows 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 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 allows 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 \$860.00 worth of tickets. The "In Memory Of" part of our Honor Wall has added significantly to our funding sources as well, though half of those fees are 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 2017, but like any other data gathering, it depends on accurate input. We “count” on you!

Miles Driven 2016 - 25,219

Miles Driven 2015 - 24,917

Hours Worked 2016 - 2,901

Hours Worked 2015 - 2,874

Cars Counted - 2016 – 61,863 a significant decrease compared to 2015, possibly due to trail closures due to bear activity. Assuming 2.5 people per car we had approximately 154,000 visitors. Cars Counted - 2015 - 93,714

Board Members:

Board - 2016

Jim Woodward, President

Tom Purdon, Vice-President

Louise Gibbeson, Secretary

Anne Rendon, Treasurer

Carole de Rivera, Judy Maury,

Rozanne Roman, Judy Thoreson,

Willem Von Kempen

Board - 2017

Jim Woodward, President

Tom Purdon, Vice-President

Louise Gibbeson, Secretary

Anne Rendon, Treasurer

Carole de Rivera, Judy Maury,

Dita-Erika Hagen, Carole deRivera,

Judy Thoreson, 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

Friends of Madera Canyon is pleased to announce the upcoming commemoration of its thirtieth anniversary by sponsoring a gala fundraiser on March 2, 2017. The fundraiser will be held at Madera Clubhouse in Quail Creek. The evening will include a hearty appetizer buffet, cash bar, a silent auction, musical entertainment and a fascinating presentation by Chris Bugbee, the field worker who was featured in the Smithsonian article about our local Jaguar El Jefe. FOMC will be pleased to consider contributions of significant items to be included in the silent auction as well as volunteer help to organize and implement the event. Please contact Carole deRivera for further information at 520 207 5318 or johcrl@cs.com.

Educational Series at Quail Creek – The first presentation of the year was on January 16, 2017 by Jeff Babson, local bird and insect specialist. Jeff’s presentations are always educational with just the right amount of humor to keep you listening. – Buy tickets at the Concierge Desk at Madera Clubhouse at Quail Creek or at the door. Watch for upcoming talks at Quail Creek.

Music in the Canyon – Four Sundays in April. The 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th, skipping Easter Sunday at 3 pm at Proctor Ramada – watch for email blasts, FOMC website:

www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org, and other advertising for the musical groups offered this year.

In Memoriam

For all of our successes in 2016 we also suffered 2 losses. On August 31, 2016, George West passed away with his wife Ellen and family at his side. George was a long time member of the Friends. A world renowned ornithologist, George served as Board Member, Secretary, Website Administrator, History Book Co-Author, Membership Co – Chair along with Ellen, Archivist and many other administrative tasks. He was named volunteer of the year 2009. We miss you George.

On December 26, 2106 Lewis Denny passed away at the age of 92. Lew was a great friend of the canyon and served the Friends for many years. He was a founding member of the Friends and served as our first treasurer. He served as President from 1989 to 1993. God speed, Lew.

Jim Woodward, President