



The President's Corner

Jim Woodward

It's hard to explain just how happy I am to be representing the Friends of Madera Canyon as the president. Needless to say I am trying to fill the very large pair of shoes left by my predecessor, Tom Purdon. We have had an exciting and productive time since our last issue of "Canyon Chatter". We should have had a new issue a few months ago and I apologize for it not getting out on time.

I believe that our most significant accomplishment this year was the construction and completion of the new "Honor Wall" located at the Proctor Picnic area. The concept of the Honor Wall is not a new one. It was first proposed in January 2010 and was initially planned to honor only significant financial donors. For various reasons the plan fell silent until 2014 when a committee was formed to take a new look at the idea.

The new concept was twofold. One section of the wall would be devoted to honoring volunteers who have done significant volunteer work for The Friends over an extended period of time and the other would be for remembering individuals who had a long term love of the Canyon. The Honor Wall committee consisted of then President Tom Purdon, John Titre of the U. S. Forest Service, Doug Moore and me. Each member took on specific, individual tasks as well as the group tasks that made for a successful outcome.

Dr. Purdon worked on developing the criteria for the "Memorial" section of the wall (see Tom's article in this issue). Mr. Titre focused on the construction of a much needed retaining wall at the site that coincidentally became the foundation for the "Honor Wall". I was involved in the design and construction and the selection of materials used in the process. In addition, a separate nominating committee developed the list of names to be included in the inaugural list of honorees and the guidelines to determine the suitability of candidates for the in memory of part of the wall.

A prime consideration was finding the best materials to be used to make the plaques that display the names. Our committee hit the road in search of an expert and we found Mr. John Sienicki at Tucson Marble & Granite (TM&G). John had been involved in other such projects and guided us through the maze of differences to be found in the granite family. In the end, only one type of black granite was deemed "good enough", a very dense, fine grained variety from India. As it turns out, it is the same stone used in the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington. It took months for the stone to arrive in the U. S. and it took a number of weeks to have the dedication plaque engraved using a special process in California. While that was happening TM&G was busy cutting and engraving the plaques and readying them for final installation.

A total of 48 names were etched in the first round of volunteer names and 9 names were etched into the first "In Memory of" plaque. On March 29, 2016 we had our dedication ceremony with comments by Tom Purdon, myself, John Titre and Forest Supervisor Kerwin Dewberry. Although it was a very windy spring day, over 100 people attended the emotionally moving ceremony, including several friends and relatives from out of state. Thank you to all who worked on and participated in this project. We finally have our long awaited Wall of Honor.

As part of our educational outreach program The Friends sponsored four talks at Quail Creek between October 2015 and April 2016 given by guest speakers Doug Moore, Jeff Babson, John Murphy and Vincent Pinto. In addition to the Quail Creek events a special "Kids in the Canyon Day" was held in April. There will be more such events in the future.

The bridge replacement projects in the canyon were devastating to the flora at the site. In order to place the bridge foundations on bedrock a significant amount of soil and loose rock was excavated. When construction was completed the area needed replanting. In a partnership effort with the Forest Service, The Friends of Madera Canyon, the Sky Island Alliance and Borderlands Restoration the areas around the bridge sites have been revegetated with a significant success rate.

The Bud and Mary Gode scholarship program continues and our latest winner, Kaylyn Miller of Cienega High School is a most worthy recipient. Kaylyn has a strong interest in Environmental Engineering.

Needless to say, we flourish because of our volunteers. Thank you to all of you who do and I warmly invite any member not actively volunteering to join in the fun. Thank you so much.



The Honor Wall

Tom Purdon

As most of you know, our long awaited Honor Wall has been built and dedicated at Proctor, near the start of the Bud Gode Interpretive Nature Trail (see photo and President Jim Woodward's lead article in this issue). At long last it has come to fruition and is a beautiful addition to the Proctor area, a fitting "gateway" to Madera Canyon.

This article will explain some of the details of the types of honor plaques found on the wall. There is a dedication plaque that has engraved logos of the U.S. Forest Service and the Friends of Madera Canyon. The dedication reads:

THIS HONOR WALL CELEBRATES THE FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON (EST. 1987) AND THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST. WE HONOR THE WORK AND DEDICATION OF THESE VOLUNTEERS AS WELL AS THE MEMORY OF OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN MEMORIALIZED HERE BY RELATIVES BECAUSE OF THE THEIR LOVE FOR THIS SPECIAL PLACE

There are two categories of honoring plaques: *In Honor Of*, for honoring significant volunteerism performed by members and *In Memory Of*, to provide a way for loved ones and others to honor people who have regarded Madera Canyon as a special and important part of their lives.

The Board of the Friends approved a procedure for evaluation and criteria for eligibility for honoring the volunteers. The Honor wall committee with the help of most of the past presidents and our archivist Dr. Geo. West reviewed the membership rolls and records to select the first group of eligible volunteers. Another group will be eligible at the end of this year.

The In Memory OF criteria requires an application process, a letter explaining the reasons why the named individual had a significant

relationship with Madera Canyon and a significant fee. The fee covers the costs of engraving. Half of the fee goes into a restricted account for the future maintenance of the wall. The other half of the fee goes into the general fund account of the Friends. The submitted letters have been placed into a Memorial Book along with the application. This book will be available for viewing at all annual meetings of the Friends and upon request by interested individuals.

There are nine individuals who have been memorialized in the first engraving. We are all very pleased with the quality and construction of this fitting tribute to honor hard working volunteers and to remember loved ones who loved Madera Canyon.

For more information about the Honor Wall contact Tom Purdon at 520-648- 7080.

Kids In the Canyon Is a Hit Doug Moore & Louise Gibbeson



Madera Canyon Fun

The first "Kids in the Canyon" day was held on April 16, 2016, one of those amazing, clear spring mornings that Madera Canyon enthusiasts brag about. With a total of 47 kids and 33 adults attending the event for nature discovery, information and outdoor fun, the morning was considered a success! Most attending families were from the Sahuarita area, but we had several from Phoenix and Tucson. Volunteers from the FOMC and USFS staffed the event and lead activities.

"Kids in the Canyon" was publicized as an opportunity for families to turn off their electronics and get outdoors to enjoy nature,

hiking, arts/crafts, picnics and more in gorgeous Madera Canyon. In addition to FOMC sponsored activities at Proctor Recreation Area in the morning, USFS Nogales District Ranger Jim Copeland declared April 16 as "fee free", so all the canyon's recreation areas, picnic facilities and trails were open free of charge to the public for the entire day.

A variety of morning activities were scheduled specifically for outdoor nature fun. All of the attending kids, no matter the age, went on nature walks led by our fantastic natural history docents. Leading the multi-age groups around the lower Proctor Nature Loop Trail, docents varied their nature interpretation to accommodate the varied ages and

learning levels. With lots of flowers, birds, bugs and the canyon in "full-green spring mode", a good time was had by both the kids and the many parents who accompanied them.

Other event activities were held in the spacious Patsy Proctor Ramada.

Smokey the Bear greeted participants and posed for photos- a big hit with both the kids and adults; Recreation Ranger John Titre was there, but sometimes hard to recognize due to his furry costume- as guess who? Thanks, John! The USFS had an information table with lots of kid-fun give a-ways. The FOMC staffed both an information table and a nature table of bug display boxes and animal skulls with docents to answer



Judy and Smokey

questions. Nature arts and crafts activities for the kids were extremely popular and kept the volunteers hopping! Kathryn Purdon and help supervised a nature drawing and coloring table; Georgia Doubler had a crafts table where the kids made picture frames for their art with plants, feathers, flowers and interesting pieces of wood. Kathryn Miller, our 2016 High School Scholarship recipient, and a friend helped Georgia with her project (Georgia and Kathryn met and connected at the annual Volunteer Breakfast in early April, where Kathryn was introduced to FOMC volunteers). Thanks to all who participated in making the day such fun and a success!

For those FOMC members that are interested, getting the word out to the public about "Kids in the Canyon" was a new, learning experience. The Education Committee utilized traditional media and local advertising, but also engaged on-line social media in several ways. In addition to print articles by reporter Ellen Sussman in the Sahuarita Sun, Green Valley News and the Nogales International and an ad in the Sahuarita Sun, event notices were posted on these papers' websites, Facebook pages and other social media platforms. Notices were also published on community Facebook pages in Sahuarita, Rio Rico and Nogales. Four attending families saw Sahuarita social media posts. Five attending families saw notices posted on their local Girl Scout Facebook pages. This is THE way to reach families in the electronic age! (The FOMC Education Committee was initially disappointed by the lack of participation from Rio Rico and Nogales, but later learned that the Tubac Presidio and Tumacacori National Historic Park held a well-publicized kid's event the same morning.)

After a review of the event with the FOMC Board, it was decided that the Education Committee will plan another "Kids in the Canyon" day in Fall 2016. Currently, Louise and Doug are also talking with the staff at the Tubac Presidio to plan a joint "partners" nature day this fall to

engage the kids in communities south of Green Valley.

Fall 4th Grade Nature Walks

Doug Moore

On the first day of summer, it seems strange to already be thinking about fall. But in Arizona, the school year starts early- in August- and before we know it, fall will be here and so will our 4th grade nature Walks at Proctor. Soon there will be teachers to contact, walk dates to negotiate and docent scheduling to confirm. In the meantime, I'm writing this recruitment reminder to the FOMC membership: please consider joining the program as a docent or tell a friend that might be a good candidate! The nature walks are an excellent way to get outside and get some exercise, explore the nature of beautiful Madera Canyon in depth and make an important education/conservation impact on local children.

As you know, this FOMC education program has been running since 1988 and has brought over 11,000 children to the canyon. Docents are the foundation of the activity, leading groups of 4th graders on walks of discovery. Currently, the program has a super corps of committed volunteers and we were lucky to gain several outstanding volunteers this past season. The FOMC always has good docents, but it has been awhile since we've had such a wholly cohesive, congenial, knowledgeable crew!

Fall is a great time to join up as a docent or to come up and observe a walk or two to see if the program is for you. The canyon is always very active and full of life to explore after the summer rains and the kids from Continental, Sopori, Great Expectations and Desert Christian schools are always curious and energetic. The varieties of plants, birds, lizards, butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers and more will knock your socks off!

Docent candidates must be members of the Friends of Madera Canyon and be physically able to walk/stand for 2-3 hours and hike around the entire Proctor Nature Loop Trail. Docents make a commitment to show up for scheduled Thursday morning walks and other docent activities as often as they are able and to on-going learning about the natural, physical and cultural history of Madera Canyon and the Sky Islands mountain ranges. Finally, all potential docents must: 1) love nature and the outdoors, 2) enjoy interacting with children, 3) take direction, work well and be able to cooperate with others, and 4) learn and follow the "Becoming a Naturalist" philosophy/teaching method used by the program.

If you are interested in joining the program, know someone who might be, or need more information, please contact FOMC Education Director, Doug Moore, at maderaedu@q.com or (520) 682-0459.

A Volunteering Opportunity

Anita Woodward

Do you think Madera Canyon is a great place? Do you like to tell others about Madera Canyon when the subject comes up? Do you like to spend time in Madera Canyon? Do you sometimes feel like you would like to do a little bit more for the Friends of Madera Canyon?

If so, you might be exactly what we need!!

Our organization has volunteers at the little building right below Proctor Parking; the first lot you come to in the Canyon. Our volunteers are there, at what we call the Visitor Information Station, every Saturday and Sunday, year round.

And we need more of our members to volunteer at that Visitor Information Station!!

What do we do there? We greet visitors who drive by and stop for information. We give them the maps and birding lists that we have, answer any of their questions that we can answer, and share our enthusiasm for how wonderful our Canyon is.

People work in pairs, for two hours at a time, and most volunteer just once a month, although we are always thrilled to have people take more than one shift in a month. We are the "welcome" that many visitors receive to the Canyon, and in my experience, the visitors are always friendly and interested! It makes for some great social experiences, all in a beautiful setting.

We need more volunteers to take on this role, and I would be happy to talk with you about it. (There is training for this; we don't just throw you into the deep end of the pool.) Please either email me or call me if you would like more information. My email is awoodw3369@aol.com and my phone number is 520-777-8045. Anita Woodward

Music in the Canyon

Anita Woodward

This year our April concert series, Music in the Canyon, was once again a huge success!! Four concerts were held on the afternoon of each Sunday in April. All four sold out! Proctor Ramada was the setting, so audiences enjoyed both an auditory and a visual treat with the mountains as the backdrop for the musicians.

The purpose of the concerts is to provide a different type of Canyon experience for our members and to introduce the general public to the beauty of the Canyon, hoping of course that they will become members. Each week featured a different type of music; Mariachi, Cowboy, Bluegrass/folk and Great American Songbook.

Monies raised from the \$15 ticket price help support our educational offerings. After expenses, this amounted to about \$3400 in 2016.

Louise Gibbeson started the concert series about seven years ago, and has been joined in the planning process the last few years by others. This year's committee included Susan Beck & Richard Brown, Mary Jo and Tony Simunaci and Anita and Jim Woodward. Georgia Doubler created the painting that served as background for the publicity poster. Forest Service personnel helped with parking.

Suggestions for musical groups for the 2017 concerts are welcome, as are committee volunteers. If you know of someone whose music seems to lend itself to this venue, or would like to help plan next year's concerts, please contact Anita Woodward at awoodw3369@aol.com.

February Fundraiser

Friends of Madera Canyon is pleased to announce the upcoming commemoration of its thirtieth anniversary by sponsoring a gala fundraiser on February 24, 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 Randy Serraglio 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.

Bridges Habitat Restoration

Doug Moore

What a difference a year and a half can make! In December, 2014, the Madera Canyon Rd. upper bridges construction project looked much like a "wildcat open-pit mining project" and the FOMC was receiving dozens of complaints from people horrified as to the damage being perpetrated upon beautiful Madera Canyon. With a huge "mountain" of boulder and rubble, a yawning pit, diverted creek beds, downed trees and loud machinery, it was hard to believe that the area could ever be put back to rights.

Fast forward to late spring, 2016, the situation is greatly changed and much improved. The bridges are finished and meet modern safety standards and the huge rubble mountain and deep pit are long gone. The devastated landscape surrounding the bridges has been re-contoured to reduce erosion and the stream beds restored. Boulders, rocks and logs have been strategically placed for erosion control and landscape aesthetics. Over one hundred native trees, shrubs, annual wildflowers and grasses have been planted to revegetate and an amazing variety of native plants have re-seeded- just coming up on

their own!

The restoration project has been the result of a successful partnership effort between the USFS, FOMC, Sky Island Alliance and Borderlands Restoration. Early on during bridge construction, the FOMC recognized the up-coming need for considerable habitat restoration and notified the USFS. Nogales District Recreation Ranger John Titre responded quickly, procuring project funding, obtaining cooperation from the construction contractor and recruiting organizations that could facilitate the project. Project goals, an action plan and task assignments were quickly accomplished in group meetings and the project was initiated!

Initial landscape restoration was performed by Borderlands, partially with equipment briefly provide by the contractor, but primarily by hand- and brute strength- of young volunteers! The final, extensive landscape/boulder/rock work was done by hand by Sky Island Alliance staff and volunteers. A comprehensive revegetation native plant list was compiled by Sky Island and FOMC; many Arizona nurseries were scoured to procure specimens. Planting by Sky Island and FOMC volunteer crews was timed to coincide with summer rains; volunteers also constructed and installed animal-proof cages to protect the tender, vulnerable plants. After the rains, USFS crews provided water for volunteers to hand-water each and every planting through the dry fall!

Today, the restoration project is showing visible, "growing" results. While it will take time for trees and shrubs to grow to mature size, an amazing number of the plantings survived the winter due to ongoing care and nurturing. Sky Island Alliance has held several volunteer days this spring to water and pull up invading Vinca (pervasive in the bridge area and spreading in the canyon) - they have really done an impressive job of keeping plants alive and growing!

The Friends of Madera Canyon would like to thank Ranger John Titre for his considerable contribution/efforts on this project. The FOMC would also like to thank the USFS personnel, Sky Island Alliance staff, Carianne Campbell and Bryon Lichtenham, and volunteers, Borderlands Restoration staff, David Seibert, and volunteers and the FOMC volunteers who have worked on the project.

Ford Mustang Raffle Tickets Available

Once again the Friends of Madera Canyon are participating in the Jim Click Raffle for a new Ford Mustang. **All proceeds from tickets sold by our Friends Volunteers go directly to the Friends of Madera Canyon.**

The automobile this year is a new 2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT 350. Only 4,300 of these cars were made.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. Please contact any FOMC board member, or call Carole deRivera at 207-5318 or Tom Purdon at 648-7080 to buy tickets. Please consider buying tickets to support the Friends of Madera Canyon.



Friends Board 2016

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