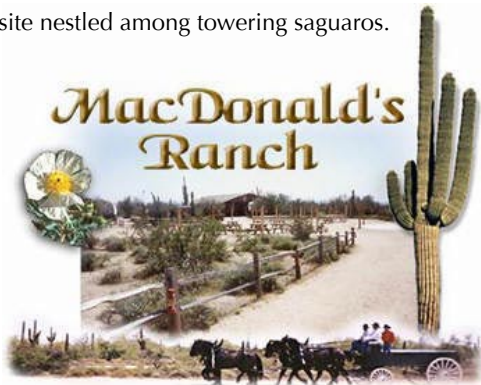


Cookout at the Ranch XII— Saturday, October 27, 2006

Preservation benefit features
desert setting, food,
western entertainment, wildlife exhibits

The horse-drawn wagons are back and the good times will roll for the twelfth consecutive year at the annual Cookout at the Ranch. Sponsored by Outback Steakhouse, Desert Foothills Cookouts, and MacDonald's Ranch, the event will be held on Saturday evening, October 27 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at historic MacDonald's Ranch, in north Scottsdale. Guests can ride a wagon or van to the festive cookout site nestled among towering saguaros.



Round up your friends, neighbors and out-of-town visitors to relax and enjoy the fun and savor an Outback Steakhouse buffet. The evening's festivities include live western entertainment, featuring The Stragglers band with Geoff Conklin, cowboy trick roper/rider Brian Baush, Gina Durbin and her trick pony Earl Grey. Watch the **Wild at Heart's** exhilarating release of a rescued great horned owl. Throughout the evening, you'll have opportunities to enjoy wildlife and community exhibits, bid on silent auction items, and invest in tickets for a Deluxe Cruise/\$25,000 drawing!

Organizers are Friends of the Scenic Drive, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park, Rotary Club of Pinnacle Peak, and the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association. The event benefits desert preservation, wildlife rehabilitation, Rotary charities and the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive. Advance ticket prices: \$45 for adults, \$15 for children, and \$350 for a reserved table (8 adults). For information and tickets, visit www.scenicdrive.org

Friends Needs Help

PINNACLE
PEAK PARK

Looking for Volunteers

It's a new season and the Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park is preparing some special activities. Activities include participation in the Cookout at The Ranch XII, celebration and recognition of the one-millionth hiker on the trail, a series of presentations by various groups including animal rescue organizations, sponsorship of an adopt-a-road project for Pinnacle Peak, and the publication of this quarterly newsletter.

The support of many of these needs is occasional. For example, at the cookout on October 27th, we will be selling raffle tickets for deluxe Mediterranean cruise. We will also have an information table at the event, handing out this newsletter and providing an opportunity to discuss with people the wonders of Pinnacle Peak Park.

To support these activities we need volunteers with various talents. Jobs include:

- distribution of the newsletter to about a dozen locations four times a year
- word processing skills for correspondence and solicitations
- publicity support
- data base development
- an historian
- chair for the adopt-a-road project (a 2 or 3 time a year event)
- phone calling
- and other projects as they develop

We continue to look for individuals interested in submitting articles and pictures for the newsletter and website.

The continued success of The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park largely rests on our success in supporting our events and activities as well as raising money to fund them. I urge you to contact us. E-Mail us info@foppp.org, contact Board Secretary Dick Luther at dluther4@cox.net or leave your name and phone number at the Park. Your support can make a difference.

Friends of
PINNACLE PEAK PARK



Activities At The Park This Fall

In the next few months there will be a variety of activities and programs at the park. Each month there will be a Wildlife presentation that will highlight the native birds, reptiles and mammals that are an intricate part of our Sonoran Desert. This is a great opportunity learn and identify the creatures that were here first!

Full Moon tours provide an opportunity to take a leisurely hike to the highest point on the trail and take in the landscape under the light of the moon. Astronomy talks will also be conducted throughout the winter months. The cooler air reveals celestial bodies that are difficult to see during the heat of summer. Reservations are required for both of these activities.

Our first program will be a talk about the basics of rock climbing on Saturday October 6 at 9:00 –10:30 am in the ramada. Paul Diefenderfer, an avid climber in the Park, will demonstrate and display rock climbing techniques and equipment.

Starting November 1st, the park begins their guided interpretive hikes at 10am. These hikes are conducted Tuesday through Sunday and are limited to 20 people. On this slow paced hike of 2 hours and just over 1 mile, you will learn about the native plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert with a touch of geology and history thrown in.

For the youngsters we have the Junior Ranger Program. For kids ages 5 -11, this is a fun learning experience focusing on the native plants and animals in the park. Get started by stopping by the office and talking to a ranger. When you have completed the work sheet, you will be awarded a certificate and a badge that makes you an official Junior Ranger!

All of these programs are free. For more information call the park at 480-312-0990 or visit the web site www.pinnaclepeakpark.com

Volunteer Stan Marks

Stan has volunteered over 400 hours at Pinnacle Peak Park since joining the volunteer team in August of 2002. This is quite a feat when you still have a full time job! Because he has been a fixture at the park on Tuesday evenings, he has been referred to as Mr. Tuesday. Not only does he hike the trail, but also answers visitor's questions with a big smile and a sense of humor about the plants, animals and natural history of the area. There is variety in his volunteer duties besides helping staff close the park. He has assisted with medical emergencies on the trail and has helped unload trail supplies from helicopters! Stan recently answered typical questions asked volunteers.

"Why I decided to volunteer: I used to rock climb on the Peak and surrounding rock formations before the neighborhoods were developed. Many of us that used to climb helped with some of the early work on the trail hauling rocks from the trailhead to the climbing access area. Although this was hard work it gave us a chance to get back on the mountain that had provided so many good times. When the Park opened in April 2002 and I saw the call for volunteers, I did not have to think twice. It was a chance to get back to the Peak and enjoy the area again."

What you like most of volunteering: "I like seeing people's faces "light up" with the enjoyment of the park's assets ranging from the wonderful plants and animals to the quiet only broken by the songs of the birds. Having the chance to be around people that are like minded (enjoy the outdoors) and being able to introduce this area to people visiting Arizona and locals visiting for the first time, truly confirms that I made the correct decision when I decided to volunteer."

