



Friends of the San Pedro River Roundup

Spring 2018

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President's Report

By Robert Weissler

BLM staff and FSPR volunteers teamed up to produce a Junior Ranger Activity Guide for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (see article, p. 3). This engaging and informative booklet is available at San Pedro House (SPH) and the Fairbank Schoolhouse. Meanwhile, FSPR is working with accomplished nature artist Linda Feltner on the design of both the new SPH bookstore sign and new FSPR logo. The sign replacement project will use over \$4000 of Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) of Cochise grant funds to replace the aging signs at SPH. FSPR vice-president Charlie Corrado, his wife, Board member Pam Corrado, and bookstore manager Laura Mackin are working with Ms. Feltner on this effort. As for field projects, Friends volunteers, partnering with volunteers from Fort Huachuca, held a landscape maintenance and trail clean-up event at SPH on December 2 to ensure a safe and attractive site (see photo, p. 2).

The BLM moved forward on a number of projects in the last several months. In late October, BLM chose a tree-trimming contractor to prune the two mature cottonwood trees at SPH. Happily, we can report that the results of this safety pruning are very positive and the trees will continue to be an attractive and iconic fixture for many years to come. Although there is no immediate funding for a permanent fence around the oldest tree, the temporary fence around it may remain in place. Thereafter, in January, work began on the roof repair at SPH. Unfortunately, both projects necessitated the closure of SPH during that time, so FSPR lost much-needed revenue during those weeks. However, the roof looks brand new! (See photo, p. 2). The BLM signed off on the improvements and operations at SPH have resumed. Meanwhile, work has begun on the upgrade of the SPH solar power system. BLM estimates this work will be completed by summer. The solar upgrade, including a new backup generator, will provide sufficient power for both the site host and for FSPR operations in SPH. This is essential, since the site is not on the electrical grid. This project will allow BLM to advertise for a SPH site host position soon, an important development for the security of SPH and the safety of FSPR bookstore volunteers. Elsewhere in SPRNCA, BLM has embarked on accessibility improvements at Fairbank. The parking lot is being reconfigured for improved safety, while the road into the townsite has been widened to better accommodate both vehicle and foot traffic. Improvements were also made around the schoolhouse and the entrance gate to the townsite was moved and aligned with a walkway to the building.

Although FSPR continues to occupy an office cubicle in the Interagency Building shared by the BLM and Sierra Vista Ranger District of the Forest Service in Hereford, Tucson Field Office (TFO) Manager Jayme Lopez told members of the Board and FSPR staff that BLM space reductions in Hereford are coming due to limited budgets, so the FSPR office space likely will not continue to be available beyond the next

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New roof at SPH. Photo by Ron Stewart.



December clean-up crew volunteers. Photo by Laura Mackin.

several months. As a result, Board members are considering other office space alternatives that require little to no added expenses for an already tight FSPR budget. In related news, neither a new cooperative agreement nor a memorandum of understanding between FSPR and BLM TFO has been signed as yet. FSPR continues to operate the bookstores, docent-led walks, and other interpretive events and volunteer activities under the terms of the prior, expired assistance agreement. Since BLM now requires docents and other outdoor event leaders to complete First Aid/CPR training prior to leading such events, FSPR hopes to soon offer recently recruited FSPR volunteers First Aid/CPR training opportunities. BLM will offer this training at no cost in the coming months to help FSPR satisfy these new volunteer requirements.

There has been considerable activity in the Arizona State Legislature regarding bills that impact water resources management. SB1507, SB1515, HB2512, and HB2553 would allow for more development in areas with already declining aquifers (e.g., Sierra Vista), potentially depriving rivers like the San Pedro access to groundwater that sustains surface flows. In harmony with our mission, the Friends oppose bills that weaken laws and regulations for ensuring a secure future with sufficient water resources for both people and the environment. By contrast, the Friends support measures that promote good stewardship of our water resources. For example, bills SB1475 and HB2581 would establish an ecological water program. We encourage our members to make their voices heard on vital laws that impact our finite water resources and take action when the opportunity arises.

Spring has sprung. Come join us for upcoming events down at the river!

Water Sentinels Check the Health of the San Pedro River

One Monday a month volunteers from the Sierra Club's Arizona Water Sentinels Program head out to five sites along the San Pedro to collect data to monitor water quality and quantity. The San Pedro Water Sentinels project started in 2011 and collects water samples to test for *E. coli* levels; make field observations; and measure pH, dissolved oxygen, and total dissolved solids concentrations in the river. *E. coli* is of concern because wastewater effluent is used to recharge the San Pedro River. Data are shared with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, so it can be used for §305(b) water quality assessments required by the Clean Water Act. These data help to inform decisions about better protecting this amazing river.

To find out more about the Water Sentinels Program and learn how you can get involved, visit the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels website, <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/water-sentinels>.

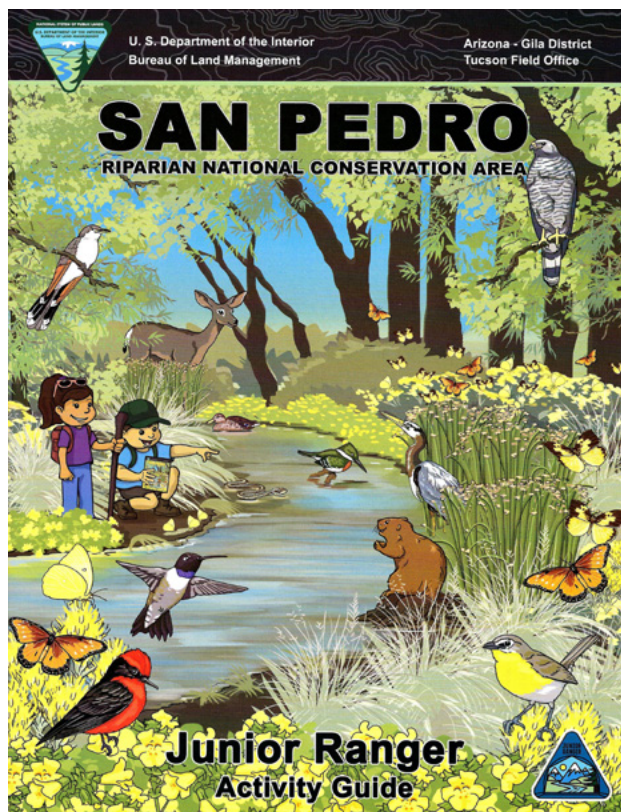
New SPRNCA Guide for Children

FSPR and the Bureau of Land Management have published a Junior Ranger Activity Guide for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). Designed for ages 8 and up, the booklet offers fun and interesting activities for children to help them learn about wildlife, vegetation, and history in SPRNCA.

Youngsters can find out how to identify animals from their tracks, learn how to save water by planting a xeriscape (low-water use) garden, and study those fascinating flying mammals, bats (how *do* they navigate in the dark?). Other activities include learning about Murray Springs, an ancient hunting site, and how ore from Tombstone was milled along the San Pedro in the 1880s. A handy map shows the location of places to explore along the river.

The booklet is available at San Pedro House, 9800 E Highway 90, Sierra Vista (open 7 days a week from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm—closed Christmas Day) or at the Fairbank Schoolhouse on Highway 82 just east of the San Pedro River (open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Children who complete six of the activities in the booklet and return it to San Pedro House or the Fairbank Schoolhouse will receive a signed certificate and a Junior Ranger patch. Take the whole family out and spend some time learning about SPRNCA! For more information, call FSPR at 520-459-2555.



Our Cultural Docent Program

By Ron Stewart

Since FSPR was founded, our docents have led weekly history hikes to sites within SPRNCA. These walks complement the nature and birdwatching walks we host near San Pedro House. On a rotating basis during fall and spring, we lead groups to the Presidio of Santa Cruz de Terrenate, Millville, the Grand Central Mill, Fairbank, Murray Springs, and the Clanton Ranch. These sites are cultural treasures and represent the full range of history in our area: from Clovis Paleo-Indians, through the colonial Spanish period, on to the Tombstone silver boom. In addition, we offer occasional outings for FSPR members only to sites such as the ghost town of Contention and the Charleston cemetery.

Our program continues to evolve. We added a new site, the Grand Central Mill, to our list of locations last year. New docents have joined and others are in training. As with all of our walks, we have added a second guide or “trailer” to each walk, to improve safety. New docents must study materials on SPRNCA and pass an exam. They must also demonstrate their tour and be certified before they begin to lead walks.

Our walks are well attended, averaging 25 attendees this spring. Although these walks are free, we do ask for donations and generally collect a modest sum from our appreciative guests. A walk schedule is posted on our Friends of the San Pedro River Facebook page and our website. Bring your friends and family out to one of these sometime—it is a great way to enjoy SPRNCA and learn more about local history.

Like our Facebook page to receive event notices for all of our events and to see posts related to the river and our organizational activities.



*Bailey and Betty with their birthday cake.
Photo by Laura Mackin.*

Happy 80th, Betty & Bailey!

By Laura Mackin

Betty and Bailey held a birthday party at San Pedro House in February. About 55 family members came for a picnic in the ramada. Betty Foster Escapule and her twin, Bailey Foster, grew up in the San Pedro House when their father worked for Boquillas Land and Cattle Company. The cottonwood tree at the southeast corner of SPH was named after Bailey. In 1956, their father planted a cottonwood branch at each corner of the house. The children hauled buckets of water for the first year, but only "Bailey" took root.



Betty and Bailey in front of the recently pruned "Bailey" cottonwood tree. Photo by Laura Mackin.

Learning About Local Animals and Their Interrelationships Can Be Fun

By Ginny Bealer

On January 25, Jane Chambers and I took the FSPR "bone boxes" to Walter J. Meyer Elementary School in Tombstone. Janeffer Montalvo, teacher of a mixed 4th- and 5th-grade class, had seen our display of skulls, hides, and tracks at Greenway Elementary School in Bisbee during the previous school year and wanted her students to see it. When we sent her descriptions of our lessons, she asked that we present both of them to her class.

We started with the "Animal Adaptations" activity, during which students are given information about how their observations of local mammal skull size, dentition, and eye placement can give them clues as to their food sources and role as predator, prey, or both in their ecosystem. Then, they are given a skull to examine and draw inferences from, and asked to guess which local mammal their skull represents.

Jane and I were surprised when one girl, whose assigned skull belonged to a rarely seen mammal, responded to the clue, "This animal digs rodents out of their burrows" with "That would be a badger." Her correct identification supports our hypothesis, based on observations of students in classrooms from a variety of area schools, that students who live in rural areas are more knowledgeable about their natural environment than those who attend schools in more densely populated areas, which contain the lowest percentage of students who raise their hands when asked if they have ever been to SPRNCA. The rural students are more likely to have lived in the area for most, if not all, of their lives, and to have spent more time observing native fauna and flora near their homes and at SPRNCA.

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After a break, the students were tasked with constructing a food web of local native animals and plants on the classroom's whiteboard. Starting with an introductory lesson about energy flow from the sun to food chains and webs via plants, and using their knowledge of "herbivore," "carnivore," and "omnivore" from the previous lesson, each student was asked to add one organism, either plant or animal, to the web. Another option was to diagram with an arrow a new connection between species already in the web. The students enthusiastically dove into the activity and constructed a web containing many of the animals whose skulls they had observed during the first lesson. The questions to consider after each student had contributed to the web were "Which web would be more stable over time, one with a few species, or one with many?" and "What happens to food webs when species become extinct?"

Jane and I enjoyed spending the morning in Ms. Montalvo's classroom and credit her with doing an outstanding job of fostering respect for each other and promoting the value of learning among her students.

Volunteer Spotlight on John Broz

John Broz has earned the honor of a brick in the FSPR dedication walkway at San Pedro House for completing over 2000 hours of volunteer service for the Friends. He not only leads most of the weekly bird walks from SPH in winter, but also schedules other docents leading those walks and does so throughout the year. In addition, John does a lot of trail maintenance work on his own to ensure that our trails are safe for visitors to the San Pedro River in SPRNCA. He has shown great initiative in carrying out these volunteer efforts and has done so for many years. Congratulations, John!



John Broz and Laura Mackin. Photo by Charlie Corrado.

The Changing San Pedro River

By Ron Stewart

[Reprinted with permission from a November 2017 issue of the Sierra Vista Herald]

The San Pedro River has flowed for millions of years. Its route and appearance change constantly. As we make decisions about the future of the San Pedro, it may be useful to examine the history, dynamics and current positive impact of this precious, rare Southwestern waterway.

Basin and range block faulting, starting 16 million years ago, created the San Pedro River Valley. As the earth's crust sank water began to flow into the new basin. Parts of the valley were sometimes filled by a lake, the badlands near Benson are its ancient bed. Today, the land tilts to the north where the San Pedro flows into the Gila River.

In the last 130 years, the San Pedro has changed from a sluggish, marshy river with only scattered areas of trees, to a more rapidly flowing stream enclosed in steep banks. Scientists tell us the San Pedro has gone through this cycle of change at least six times in the past.

During the early 1800s, pioneer, military, and scientific documents describe the San Pedro as a shallow, slow-moving river with beaver ponds and cienegas (small marshes). Photographs and journals from that time describe a sparse population of willows, walnuts, and cottonwoods. There were mesquite bosques in some areas.

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Down-cut San Pedro waterway near Fairbank, with cottonwood pioneers. Photo by Ron Stewart.

Change came quickly. Massive flooding, overgrazing, fuel wood removal, and beaver eradication from 1890 to 1908 caused the San Pedro to cut downward. Down-cutting continued until the 1950s. The newly entrenched river flowed in a trough dug into the alluvial aquifer. Water flowed from adjacent wetlands into the lowered riverbed. Most of the cienegas that once filled the valley disappeared.

By the 1960s, more trees were present and today there is a forest of water-table-dependent trees, including Fremont cottonwoods, Goodding willow, and Arizona walnuts. What caused the change? River down-cutting created perfect conditions for cottonwoods to spread. Fremont cottonwood seeds require sandy, damp alluvial soil in full sunlight to sprout. The scoured waterway, with sandy banks largely devoid of vegetation, was perfect. Today, a forest of trees lines the river, healing the down-cut waterway and sheltering wildlife.

Cottonwoods are agents of change. They grow rapidly, die, and leave behind their leaves, branches, and trunks. This vegetative detritus, along with material from the other plants, is re-forming the waterway. The biomass acts as a sponge, holding water, retarding runoff, and enhancing recharge of the aquifer. The living trees shade the river, reducing evaporation, and although evapotranspiration of water through the cottonwood leaves occurs, the enhanced recharge still provides a net benefit to the aquifer.

A natural process is at work. Scouring floods create conditions in which cottonwoods can take root. The pioneering cottonwoods create conditions for other plants to grow. Today, we enjoy a forest of trees along the river, but the cycle continues. If nature is allowed to take its course, over hundreds of years, as the entrenchment is filled with plant debris and soil, the San Pedro River will likely revert to its historic form: a stream meandering at surface level through wetlands with few more scattered trees.

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Why should you care? The trees along the river help retain water, foster recharge of the aquifer, and control flooding. Plant growth removes carbon from the air and produces oxygen. Riparian areas are wildlife habitat and provide corridors between adjacent mountain ranges. Migrating birds rely on the San Pedro. Projects elsewhere to remove trees from waterways have not produced gains in water conservation.

Still not convinced? The San Pedro River, encased in a gallery forest, provides all of us with recreational opportunities. Families wade in the river, picnic along its banks, and shelter in the shade of the trees. Hikers, hunters, photographers, and others are drawn here. Birdwatchers come from around the world for rare birds that are attracted to the river and trees. The economic value of ecotourism creates an important revenue stream for Cochise County.

Those wishing to learn more of the history and science behind the past of the river are referred to a set of papers written for the Friends of the San Pedro River by Dr Gary Noonan, which can be viewed at <http://sciencequest.webplus.net/noonan%20san%20pedro%20river%20papers.html>

The Railroad Maze in Cochise County

By Bob Luce

[Reprinted with permission from a December 2017 issue of the Sierra Vista Herald]

If you remember the board game Monopoly, you will also recall the Short Line Railroad. That was an eastern short line railroad named after the Shore Fast Line that ran between Atlantic City and Ocean City, New Jersey from 1907 to 1948.

Years earlier, work was begun on a “short line” in the Arizona Territory. One year after the 1881 Shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, construction was begun on the New Mexico and Arizona Railroad that ran from the mainline Southern Pacific Railway at Benson to Nogales. At that time, the Southern Pacific rail line from Los Angeles through Benson had recently become the second transcontinental railroad across the US. The town of Fairbank (now a ghost town managed by BLM and Friends of the San Pedro River)



The EP&SW Railroad trestle over the San Pedro River near Lewis Springs. Photo by Robert Luce.

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was established where the NM&A turned southwest toward Nogales. The NM&A rail line was abandoned in 1933.

On the east side of the San Pedro River Bridge, Highway 90 crosses an old short line that followed the river. It now looks like an abandoned road. That rail line, constructed in 1888-89, ran from Bisbee to Fairbank and was called the Arizona and South Eastern Railroad (A&SE). The Copper Queen Mining Company in Bisbee encouraged construction of this line to transport ore from the copper mining boom in Bisbee. Look closely and you can see a few broken ties, abandoned water stations, and even mile markers for the old rail line. A branch line whose roadbed is still visible today crossed the San Pedro River not far above Lewis Springs and ran from the A&SE line to Fort Huachuca. It was abandoned 1976.

In 1887, a powerful earthquake occurred in the San Pedro River Valley—an event that became a part of railroad history in Arizona. The epicenter of the 1887 earthquake was south of the US border on the western front of the Sierra Madre Mountains, but the disturbance was felt as far north as Tucson. Both buildings and railroads were damaged. The most significant impact to railroad tracks was near Fairbank, where an east-west branch line called the El Paso and Southeastern Railway ran from Fairbank to Tombstone. The rails were bent four and one-half inches out of line for about three hundred feet and railroad embankments shifted as much as a foot. The line was repaired after the quake and existed until official abandonment in 1959.

In 1902, the El Paso and Southeastern Railway built a rail line that paralleled the A&SE from Bisbee to Benson, passing through Fairbank. The A&SE was eventually extended to Douglas and a spur ran south into Sonora to service the copper mines there. The A&SE line became one with the El Paso and Southeastern in 1901, then merged with the Southern Pacific in 1924.

The old A&SE Railroad rails and ties were removed in 2007 but the roadbed and right of way still remain. The railroad retained property rights, so the line could potentially be put back in service if ore from mines in Mexico ever requires transportation to the mainline. Trespassing on the old right of way is prohibited.

A River by Any Other Name: The San Pedro

By Ron Stewart

[Reprinted with permission from a January 2018 issue of the Sierra Vista Herald]

Have you ever wondered how and when the San Pedro River was named?

In 1540, nearly 500 years ago, Juan Jaramillo was the first to mention the river in the journal he kept during the Coronado Expedition. Jaramillo states that they encountered a river, now thought to be the San Pedro, that “the natives called Nexpa.” This is a Nahuatl word, the language of the Aztecs, pronounced nesh-pa. Likely this was the translation of a word learned from a local resident, as interpreted by an Aztec soldier-guide. The exact meaning of Nexpa is not known. There is also a river in Mexico with this same Nahuatl name.

Eusebio Kino was the next to name the river. In the 1690s, Kino worked as a missionary among the Sobaipuri residents of the area. Their principal settlements on the middle portion of the San Pedro were Quiburi and Gaybanipitea. Descendants of the San Pedro Sobaipuri reside in the San Xavier district near Tucson among their kin, the Tohono O’odham.

Kino named the river “Rio de San Joseph de Terrenate.” He also referred to it as “Rio San Joseph de Quiburi.” The Spanish typically named rivers after its principal settlement. These names refer to Sobaipuri villages, Terrenate at the headwaters, and Quiburi downstream. The Spanish custom for naming most geographic locations (i.e., villages and mountains) was to assign them the name of the saint on whose day the site was first visited.

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Capilla San Pedro in Morelos, Sonora, Mexico. Photo by Mike Foster.

Following Kino, other missionaries visited the valley and recorded names in their journals. Until the 1750s, the area was generally referred to as the Valley of the Sobaipuris, sometimes with the Terrenate River running through it.

The name began to change in the 1760s. A map prepared by Joseph de Urrutia still labels it the Valley of the Sobaipuris and River of the Sobaipuris. However, another account from that same expedition by Nicolas de Lafora refers to it as the "Sobaipuris Valley, also called San Pedro." Why was the name changing? In 1762, the Spanish ordered the Sobaipuris to move to the Santa Cruz River. Although only half of the Sobaipuris complied, from the Spanish perspective names for the valley and river that referred to the Sobaipuri were no longer appropriate. We therefore surmise that they changed the name at that time.

So, where did "San Pedro" come from? By the 1760s, there was an agricultural village located at the headwaters of the river, just south of the modern international border. This town likely started as a Sobaipuri village near the confluence of several washes and springs that formed the river at that point. By the 1780s, Spanish chronicles designate this village San Pedro, locating it along the river just north of its headwaters at the start of an irrigation reach. Here, the soldiers stationed at the nearby Presidio of Santa Cruz de Terrenate and then Las Nutrias grew crops.

Fifty years later, the river was known to James O Pattie, a Kentuckian and fur-trapper, as the Beaver River. His journal entry for March 3, 1826, states "We trapped along down a small stream, that empties into the Helay on the south side.... It being very remarkable for the number of its beavers.... At this place, we collected 200 skins." This name was transitory.

The village of San Pedro, for which the river was named, still stands. It is at the end of rough dirt roads leading north from Cananea. You can see it to the south from elevated vantage points north of the border in the Coronado National Memorial and elsewhere. The Capilla de San Pedro stands in the nearby farming town of Morelos. The chapel contains a statue of St Peter, guardian of our river. We are separated from these farming towns by a border, but united by a common river.

Those wishing to learn more are referred to the article "Naming Arizona's San Pedro River," by Dr Deni Seymour and Ron Stewart, in the spring 2017 edition of *The Journal of Arizona History*. Another good source is a film by local videographer Mike Foster, available at <https://vimeo.com/203354344>.



Ringtail. Photo by R. Luce.

Arizona's Other Raccoon

By Robert Luce

[Reprinted with permission from a February 2018 issue of the Sierra Vista Herald]

What southwestern mammal species is common, but not commonly seen; is called a cat, but is not one, and is cute until it makes a midnight visit to your chicken house or takes up residence in your attic?

The answer: a ringtail, or south of the US border, a cacomistle. Other common names include civet cat, ring-tailed cat, and rock cat.

The ringtail has two look-alike cousins: raccoon and coatiundi. A raccoon is much plumper in body, and a coati is much bigger and taller and often carries its tail straight up. Honestly, a ringtail has the body shape of a cat, a face like a big-eyed fox, and a very long, almost monkey-like tail with black and white rings and a black tip. A ringtail is 24 inches long or more, half tail and half body. The ringtail is very adept at using its tail for balance when running or climbing, a bit like a monkey, but unlike monkeys, ringtails

cannot swing from their tail. And, of course, a waving tail confuses a predator in hot pursuit, likely saving many a ringtail caught out in the open.

Although there is overlap, the range of ringtails, coatis, and raccoons can be somewhat separated by elevation and habitat. Ringtails inhabit dry, rocky canyons, desert scrublands, and riparian canyons with water up to about 9,000 feet elevation. They primarily occur in the southwestern deserts: Chihuahuan, Sonoran, and Great Basin. They can be found in suitable habitat throughout Arizona. The photo accompanying this article was taken in the perennial portion of the San Pedro River riparian area.

Coatis are sometimes observed in desert habitats, especially near watercourses like the San Pedro, but prefer wooded canyons, mountain forests, and riparian areas up to 11,000 feet such as in the Huachuca and Mule Mountains. Raccoons, as most of us know, occur in a wide variety of habitats and elevations over the entire United States. They are more commonly seen than ringtails and often leave their tracks in mud on the banks of the San Pedro or along streams in the Huachucas.

Ringtails are what mammalogists call a small predator, meaning, in the real world, an animal that spends as much time looking back over its shoulder as it does looking forward. Great-horned owls and red-tailed hawks, both common in southern Arizona, are major predators of ringtails, but the odd mountain lion, coyote, or bobcat will not turn down a meal of ringtail.

Ringtails are omnivores. This group includes raccoons, bears, humans, and many other species. Ringtails will eat just about anything, including fruit, insects, lizards, snakes, crayfish, mice, rock squirrels, voles, and white-throated woodrats; and will raid bird nests and steal eggs or baby birds.

Ringtails are fast and agile. The ankle joint is highly flexible and able to rotate over 180 degrees, so the animal can go straight up and down trees and walls, and suddenly reverse direction with amazing speed. Like a human mountain climber, ringtails can "chimney"; that is, press all four feet against one wall and

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their back against the opposite wall and shinny up. They negotiate wider cracks by ricocheting back and forth between the walls like a bullet.

Ringtails spend most of the night foraging on the ground or in trees, and when the sun comes up, seek out a hollow tree, rock crevice, or underground den. When cornered, ringtails issue a sputtering growl and hiss somewhat like a domestic cat, but sound more like the airbrake releasing on an 18-wheeler than a cat.

Like black-footed ferrets, skunks, weasels, and other members of the Family Mustelidae, ringtails give off a foul, musky scent when alarmed. The smell is not as potent as a skunk, but enough to warn a potential predator that it can expect trouble in short order if it grabs the ringtail.

Historically, ringtails, like beaver, were considered a useful wild mammal. Not for their hides, but for their ability as mousers. In the 1800s and early 1900s when the Bisbee and Tombstone underground mines were in their prime, miners captured wild ringtails and placed them in underground mines to catch mice and woodrats (also called packrats). For that reason, many people called ringtails "Miner's Cats."

Miners don't use ringtails much for rodent control anymore, but desert-dwelling humans likely get the same benefit from having ringtails around their homes, barns, and outbuildings, even if they don't know it. Like the other 83 native wild mammals living along the perennial portion of the San Pedro, the ringtail has a unique and interesting place in the ecology of the river.

Green Invaders at SPRNCA

By Virginia Bealer

[Reprinted with permission from a March 2018 issue of the Sierra Vista Herald]

No, they're not from outer space, they're plants that are growing where they shouldn't be, and outcompeting the original plant species for resources. How did they get in the wrong place? Sometimes it's by accident (e.g., tumbleweeds, whose seeds were most likely transported from Asia to other continents as a contaminant of flax seed) and sometimes intentional (e.g., Lehmann's lovegrass. In the 1920s and 1930s the grass was introduced to Arizona to replace the native grasses that had been severely overgrazed by livestock). Complicating matters is the fact that some invasive species are native ones that become established in a new habitat or ecosystem due to disturbances often caused by *Homo sapiens*.

One of the nonnative invaders is tumbleweed, *Salsola tragus*, sometimes called "Russian thistle." This plant is better than most native plants at just about everything it needs to do to survive and thrive in sunny, disturbed areas, and ends up being a fire hazard when it collects in heaps under trees or against fences and buildings during windstorms.

At the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), there are several invasive plant species whose impacts on the native plant communities are significant. Johnsongrass, *Sorghum halepense*, was introduced into the eastern US in the early 1800s as forage and since then has spread to nearly every state. Its foliage can produce toxic levels of hydrocyanic acid when subjected to frost, drought, or mechanical damage, an unfortunate consequence to the ranchers who grazed cattle in the area before SPRNCA was established. But it also has a negative impact on the riparian habitat that SPRNCA protects. Its deep roots help it survive the sometimes scouring floods that come with the monsoon. Since Fremont cottonwoods and Goodding willows, the dominant riparian trees at SPRNCA, require exposed, wet sandbars for germination, the likelihood of their regeneration is greatly reduced by dense riverside stands of Johnsongrass. Its habit of spreading by underground stems and sending roots as deep as a meter make its control by mowing or prescribed burns difficult. Bermuda grass, *Cynodon dactylon*, also thrives along the riverbanks and proliferates through its root system.

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Johnsongrass, a widespread invasive plant.
Photo by Ginny Bealer.

Lehmann lovegrass, *Eragrostis lehmanniana*, is relatively fire tolerant, recovers quickly from disturbances, and is capable of rooting from nodes in prostrate stems. Flowering and seeding earlier than many native species, it also has an advantage after winter rains. Less palatable to cattle than native grasses, it is selected for by cattle grazing.

Salt cedar or tamarisk, *Tamarix ramosissima*, an attractive tree with lacy leaves and bearing small, pink flowers in spring, was introduced from Eurasia in the early 1800s as an ornamental and for use as windbreaks and erosion control. Its ability to tolerate salty soils has enabled it to become widespread in the southwestern US, especially where riparian habitats have declined due to groundwater depletion. Reduction of seasonal flooding due to dam construction in the Southwest also favors salt cedar. Its deep taproots can access groundwater below the reach of cottonwood and willow roots, and the salts that move up its vascular tissue end up in soil with shed leaves. Tamarisk proliferates asexually underground, or sexually by wind or waterborne seeds.

Velvet mesquite, *Prosopis velutina*, is a native tree whose historical habitat was bosques near riparian ecosystems. It and other woody native plants have become established in upland grasslands at SPRNCA by a combination of factors that include compaction of soil due to overgrazing, fire suppression, spreading of seeds by grazers, and, in the plant's ability to produce both shallow and deep roots, giving it an advantage during our monsoon season as well as periods when aquifers are being recharged following winter rains.

The Bureau of Land Management is employing several techniques to control these invasive plants, including prescribed fires, chemical control, physical removal, and, in the case of tamarisk, introduction of a beetle that feeds on this plant.

Lewis Springs: The Once Highly Popular Regional Resort

Text© 2018 by Gerald R Noonan PhD

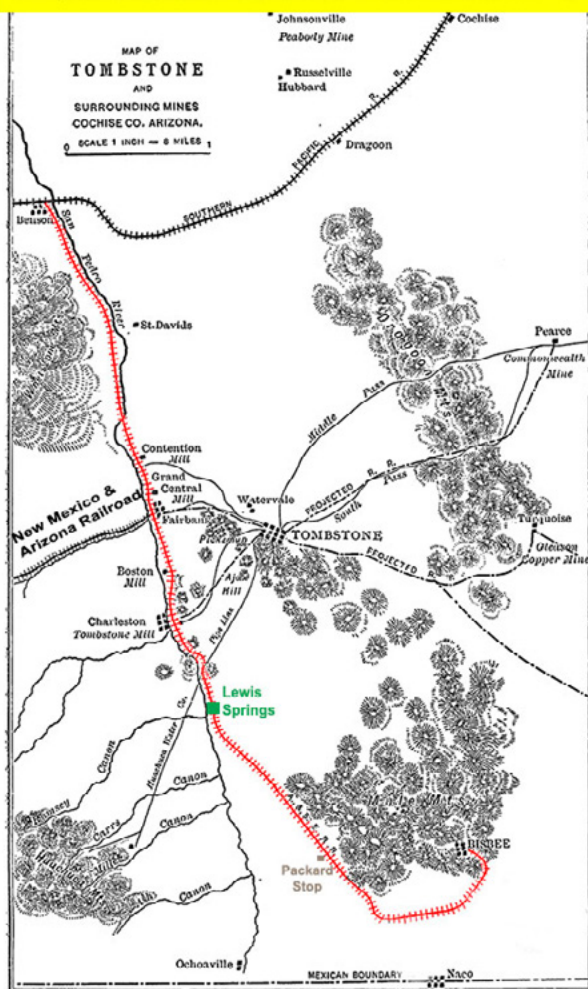
Lewis Springs, situated just a few miles from the San Pedro House, was for more than 10 years a highly popular resort where thousands of people at a time gathered. At the height of its development during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the resort provided people with shade, a spring-fed pool, music, dancing in a large pavilion, a natatorium, a bathhouse, entertainment, midway concessions, good food and drinks, athletic contests, and convenient railroad transportation with special excursion rates.

People living near the San Pedro River especially prized shade. The Upper San Pedro River was in a stage of a naturally occurring alluvial cycle during which most of the river was not yet within an arroyo and large trees were scarce (see Noonan, 2011, 2013 for details).

The Lewis Springs area had a spring-fed pool and a grove of large cottonwood trees that provided open shade suitable for crowds. Moreover, it was conveniently close to a railroad that was eager to earn revenue by transporting people to and from the area.

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Phelps Dodge Railroads (shown in red, adapted from Church, 1903).
 (Track positions changed over time as Phelps Dodge RR found & constructed
 better grades. Eastward tracks to Douglas, New Mexico, Texas & Mexico not shown.)



Fritz Hoffman had initially located springs that were termed (Barnes, 1988, p. 246) “Fritz springs.” In January 1879 Colonel Alpheus Lewis purchased the old Fritz Hoffman Springs, which was recorded under the name of his son, Robert A. Lewis. The water source was thereafter called “Lewis Springs,” in honor of the senior Lewis (Bailey and Chaput, 2000b, p. 8; Thrapp, 1988, p. 853).

Tax records for 1885 showed that R.A. Lewis owned 160 acres on the east side of the San Pedro River at Lewis Springs (TE, 1886a). The property included an adobe house and wire fence and was valued at \$2000. The \$70 annual taxes were \$76.79 in arrears. Ownership of the ranch apparently passed in September 1886 to George Gunnison Berry, a Tombstone lawyer active in land speculation (Bailey and Chaput, 2000a, p. 24; DT, 1886). The ownership change may have been related to the resignation of Colonel Alpheus Lewis and his son Robert from the local management of the Prompter Mine and a sale of Lewis’ mining interests to Berry (DTE, 1886).

The desirability of Lewis Springs for relaxation because of its pond and shade-producing cottonwood trees was known to the public by 1889. The Tombstone Daily Prospector on February 11, 1889 described (TDP, 1889a) the Lewis ranch as “one of the finest ranches in Cochise County. The bubbling spring bursting out from the side of a hill, never failing, makes

this a most desirable location for a home.” The Tombstone Daily Prospector reported on August 14, 1890 that several people had enjoyed a Sunday at Lewis Springs (TDP, 1890), fishing and sleeping beneath the cottonwood trees on the bank of the “carp pond.”

Charles Granville Johnston, a prominent Tombstone attorney, decided to monetize the rest-and-relaxation potential of shade and water. He purchased a half interest in the Lewis Springs ranch in February 1889 by giving a mortgage to Berry for the half interest (Bailey and Chaput, 2000a, p. 203; TDP, 1889a). Johnson and Berry made plans in February 1889 for 10 acres of grapevines, 25 acres of alfalfa, and a large orchard (TDP, 1889b).

Johnson, however, envisioned revenues significantly greater than those from farming. In March 1891 he went to San Francisco to seek capital to make a sanatorium at Lewis Springs (TE, 1890a). He proposed to build a large hotel and “beautify the premises in many ways.” The Tombstone Epitaph opined that “the spring is a magnificent one and if the scheme can be worked Tombstone will have a pleasure resort at a short distance from it, with good roads for driving and a railroad running through it, if one prefers going that way. It is also easy of access from Bisbee, Fairbank, and Benson.”

The Arizona Weekly Citizen reported (AWC, 1891) on July 4, 1891 that a company under the leadership of Johnston would soon be incorporated in San Francisco “and establish a health and pleasure resort in the vicinity of what is known as Lewis Springs . . .” Analysis showed that the water had “absolute purity.” There was a natural fish pond 300 feet in diameter, stocked with five- to six-pound carp.

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The sanitarium was not built and the sharing of the Lewis ranch between Berry and Johnston did not work out (TE, 1891b). On August 8, 1891, Berry secured a decree of foreclosure and an order of sale by Sheriff CB Kelton against Johnston and Starks Surdan for failing to pay on a mortgage of \$1453.96 and interest amounting to \$108.92. George Berry passed away on February 12, 1892 (Bailey and Chaput, 2000a, p. 24) and Surdan arranged with the widow to grow vegetables for Bisbee, Fairbank, and Tombstone (TE, 1892c; TE, 1892b).

Margaret F. Berry obtained what was locally believed to be full title to the Lewis Springs ranch on January 15, 1893 when Sheriff Scott White served a writ of restitution in her favor (TE, 1893). She received the title because of a foreclosure of the mortgage held by the late GG Berry to secure the Johnston debt.

Land deeds and mortgages for Lewis Springs were irrelevant as to actual ownership. The spring was within the San Rafael del Valle land grant and owned by people in Mexico (AR, 1899; Bowden, 2004-15; Mattison, 1946, p. 317-8, 375-6 abs.; SRV, 1902; TE, 1899; Wagoner, 1989, p. 194-7). The Packard Cattle Company purchased all of the land grant from the Camou family, and in 1902 sold the entire grant to William Greene, who made it part of his Greene Cattle Company (BDR, 1906j). On April 20, 1912 the widow of Colonel Greene sold the Greene Cattle Company to the Boquillas Land and Cattle Company (BDR, 1912b). Investors financed some of the facilities built at Lewis Springs over the years, but ownership of the land itself apparently remained with the Greene Cattle Company until sold to the Boquillas interests.

By 1894, local recognition of Lewis Springs was such that the Tombstone Epitaph on April 1, 1894 referred to it as "the famous Lewis Springs." The development of the area as an important local recreational center was made possible by expansion of the Phelps Dodge controlled railroad into an important regional transportation network (manuscript in preparation). The railroad by 1900 extended southward from Benson up the San Pedro River Valley and southeastward around the Mule Mountains to the Bisbee area. On July 26, 1901 the railroad became part of a larger enterprise called the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad Company that soon had an extension eastward into Texas and New Mexico.

The Copper Queen band organized on August 12, 1900 what was probably the first large-scale railroad excursion to Lewis Springs, with approximately 500 people enjoying a picnic there (AR, 1900; TE, 1900a). A train left Bisbee at 9 am with six cars containing approximately 250 people and stopped at various stations along the way to board additional passengers. People brought their own food with them and once at the picnic grounds dispersed into different areas according to their own inclinations. Some relaxed in the shade from the cottonwoods, many youths played in the San Pedro River, and numerous people danced on a platform to the accompaniment of music played by the Copper Queen band.

The Copper Queen band arranged another picnic on Sunday, September 16, 1900 (TE, 1900b; TE, 1900c). Approximately 35 people from Tombstone arrived at Lewis Springs but were disappointed to learn that the expected picnickers from Bisbee were unable to reach there because of washouts along the railroad below Bisbee the day before.

Jimmie Nichols, steward at the Copper Queen hotel, had an idea in August 1903 that led to Lewis Springs becoming an important regional resort (BDR, 1903). He noticed the big grove of trees near Lewis Springs and decided to arrange a series of picnics under the auspices of the Bisbee fire department. Nichols talked with VR Stiles, general passenger agent of the railroad, about railroad transportation. The latter wanted to boost passenger traffic by offering low excursion rates and had the railroad secure the picnic grounds for the 1904 summer season and arranged for special excursion trains (BDR, 1904a; Myrick, 1981, p. 211-2).

Stiles and other railroad officials were impressed by the shade offered by the grove of trees. Many ads and newspaper articles about Lewis Springs that appeared over a span of several years in the Bisbee Daily Review mentioned that visitors could relax in the shade of trees there and enjoy being near the springs. As the Bisbee Daily Review put it on May 18, 1909 (BDR, 1909g), picnickers spent time "enjoying the shade of the trees, always so welcome to a Bisbeeite."

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For the first excursion event in 1904, the railroad arranged a catered basket picnic on May 22 where the Fifth US Cavalry Band played popular music. Approximately 600 people boarded a train that left Douglas, took on additional cars from Bisbee and more people at Naco, and then delivered approximately 1000 picnickers to the grounds. The round-trip excursion fare of \$1 (half fare for children) between Bisbee and Lewis Springs was thereafter afforded most groups. Round-trip excursion fares between Douglas and Lewis Springs varied but usually were \$1.50 for adults and half fare for children.

On Saturday June 18, 1904, the railroad provided a special car that transported a gym class of approximately 75 children from Bisbee to Lewis Springs and was switched onto a siding so that the youngsters could spend the day in the area (BDR, 1904b,c,d). The very successful excursion was repeated on July 9, 1904, with approximately 150 children and parents picnicking (BDR, 1904e) in the shade of the trees.

The railroad arranged in early July 1904 for the installation of swings, seesaws, and other items before a July 16 picnic. In the words of the Bisbee Daily Review (BDR, 1904f), the picnic was "a howling success." Approximately 400 people, mostly youngsters, from Douglas and Bisbee fished, swam, played games, and used the new playground equipment. Miss Magnes, a professional balloonist, provided entertainment by ascending in a balloon that landed in a mesquite bush.

In early April 1905, the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad distributed circulars announcing Sunday excursions to Lewis Springs from Bisbee, Douglas, and Tombstone during April through August (BDR, 1905a). It also provided several Saturday trips. For example, on May 13, approximately 125 picnickers enjoyed lunch at noon and various entertainments, including a baseball game between Bisbee and Tombstone residents (BDR, 1905b,c,d).

Social groups began organizing railroad excursions to Lewis Springs in 1905 (BDR, 1905e,f,g,i). Black residents of Douglas and Bisbee celebrated Emancipation Day on June 19 with a picnic, baseball game, and music from Rhee's Orchestra. On Sunday, July 16, the You and I Club traveled to Lewis Springs. The Local Lodge of United Grass Widows of Bisbee held an annual reunion on August 20. Approximately 100 people enjoyed the Christian Church picnic at Lewis Springs on Sunday, October 21.

A flood on September 23, 1905 failed to stop festivities the next day at Lewis Springs (BDR, 1905h). The Order of Railroad Conductors had organized an excursion to the popular area for conductors and their families and friends from throughout the extent of the Phelps Dodge railroads in the United States. The railroad provided transportation from Bisbee, Douglas, Naco, Tombstone, Benson, and from the eastern end of the railroad system. When the crowd of people arrived at Lewis Springs via nine passenger coaches, they found that a flood the previous night had washed away the dance platform, bandstand, and all refreshments. However, the picnickers improvised a band stand and danced to the music of Concha's band. One band member sprained a leg when the stand collapsed, but otherwise the day was joyful for the participants. In the afternoon the crowd watched a baseball game between teams from Bisbee and Tombstone.

The spring of 1906 saw more social groups organizing railroad excursions to Lewis Springs. The Odd Fellows of Bisbee, Douglas, and Tombstone held a picnic on Sunday, April 29 with music from a Bisbee band and a ballgame and other sports (BDR, 1906a). Children from Catholic Sunday schools in Bisbee and Tombstone and several teachers held picnics on Thursday, June 7 and Monday, June 11 (BDR, 1906b; TE, 1906a).

The Eagles Lodge provided an exceptionally event-filled day of festivities on Sunday June 17, 1906 (BDR, 1906c,d,dd,e,f,g; TE, 1906b). Eight men beforehand constructed a "monster dancing pavilion" that provided 2400 square feet of shaded dancing, billed as the "largest open-air dancing floor in the southwest." Festivities included a wrestling match, a baseball game between Bisbee and Douglas teams, sack races, potato races, three-legged races, egg races, girls' races, boys' races, women's races, and fat men's races. The Eagles awarded "big purses" for each racing event, swings for the children, and provided refreshments and lunches.

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A 1906 article in the Tucson Citizen (TE, 1906c) called Lewis Springs “one of the finest picnic grounds in Arizona” and concluded “the place could be made into a fine resort” that would draw from Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, and Tucson.

Approximately 100 black residents of Bisbee, Douglas, and Tombstone celebrated Emancipation Day on June 19 with a picnic and dance (BDR, 1906h). About 75 members of the Christian Church of Bisbee picnicked on Wednesday, June 27, 1906 (BDR, 1906i). They traveled on two special cars, that attached to the regular morning train departing from Bisbee, and then relaxed in the shade of the Lewis Springs cottonwood trees.

The El Paso and Southwestern Railroad placed a half-page ad in the Bisbee Daily Review on April 28, 1907 (BDR, 1907a). The ad solicited customers for trips to the East and mentioned Lewis Springs, suggesting that a good lunch “under those beautiful trees beside the spring is very pleasant and restful.”

The burgeoning popularity of the picnic grounds resulted in the expenditure of approximately \$5000 to develop the area as a resort (BDR, 1907b,c; TE, 1907a). Work crews in June 1907 removed underbrush and began constructing a 30 by 60 feet long natatorium, a bathhouse, baseball field, and other amenities. The place already had a 60 by 70 feet dancing pavilion.

Excursions to Lewis Springs continued during the construction (BDR, 1907d). Approximately 250 people from Bisbee enjoyed a Sunday school picnic on Tuesday, June 25, 1907. Because of the extra number of coaches required to handle the crowd, the railroad attached another engine onto the 5:30 pm train back to Bisbee to provide sufficient power for going up the grade back to town.

The El Paso and Southwestern Railroad advertised the July 14 opening of the resort in the July 7, 1907 issue of the Bisbee Daily Review (BDR, 1907e). The opening of the resort was a resounding success, even though the natatorium and some other improvements had not yet been completed (BDR, 1907f,b,g; TE, 1907b). Three special trains delivered an estimated more than 1000 people to the site from towns such as Benson, Tombstone, Bisbee, and Douglas.

Trains from Bisbee, Douglas, and Tombstone transported an estimated 1200 people to the Eagles’ picnic at Lewis Springs on July 28, 1907 (BDR, 1907h,i). Events included foot races, sack races, peanut races, fat men’s races, girls’ races, and dancing. The dancing began shortly after noon and continued until 7 pm, when the crowd began preparing to return home. The natatorium, despite projections of been finished earlier, was still under construction.

The El Paso and Southwestern Railroad provided a moonlight excursion from Bisbee to Lewis Springs on Friday, August 23, 1907 (BDR, 1907j,k,l). Approximately 200 people enjoyed an evening at the new resort. They had slightly more of an adventure than anticipated. A rain began falling on the merrymakers, who paid no attention to it and continued dancing. However, when the time came to return to the train stop for a scheduled 1 am departure, people had to cross what had become a good-sized creek, with

several persons falling in without any injury. Everyone safely boarded the return train, which arrived in Bisbee at 2 am.

SPECIAL TRAIN LEAVES
BISBEE AT 10:35 A. M.

EL PASO & SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD

RETURN TRAIN LEAVES
THE SPRINGS AT 6:00 P. M.

Good old-fashioned basket picnic
AT
Lewis Springs SUNDAY, JULY 14th

\$1.00 FOR THE ROUND TRIP FOR ADULTS AND 50¢ FOR CHILDREN

Brass Band Concert during the afternoon by the Douglas Cornet Band. Plenty of refreshments on the ground for those who do not care to take lunches with them.

Take your family and enjoy a pleasant afternoon under the big trees at Lewis Springs.

LOW RATES from all stations on our line in Arizona on this date. Arrange to meet your friends in Douglas, Tombstone and other towns at the Springs.

V. R. STILES, General Passenger Agent, El Paso Texas.

Half page advertisement placed by the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad in the Bisbee Daily Review on July 7, 1907 to announce excursion trains to the opening of the improved Lewis Springs resort.

The Copper Queen sponsored festivities at Lewis Springs on Sunday September 8, 1907 for employees of its stores at Bisbee, Douglas, Lowell, and Naco (BDR, 1907m,n). The stores had more than 300 employees, and the staff and families participating in the festivities numbered more than 500. The excursion train, containing eight comfortably crowded coaches, left Bisbee at 9 am and reached the resort area about an hour and a half later. Immediately after the arrival, dancing began, accompanied by music

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from a five-piece orchestra. A series of athletic events also occurred, and employees of the Lowell store were overjoyed to win most of the prizes for these events.

The El Paso and Southwestern Railroad organized a picnic at Lewis Springs on Sunday, September 22, 1907 for miners and their families (BDR, 1907o,p; TE, 1907c). The event was not restricted to Copper Queen miners, and a train transported picnickers from Tombstone.

On Saturday October 12, 1907, the new natatorium opened to the delight of several hundred schoolchildren and many of their parents who traveled from Bisbee to Lewis Springs for the last group picnic of the year (BDR, 1907q).

The 1908 season at Lewis Springs started on Easter Sunday, April 19, with people arriving on trains from Douglas, Tombstone, Bisbee, and intermediate places (BDR, 1908a).

The Bisbee Eagles Lodge announced a June 14, 1908 picnic at Lewis Springs by stringing a large banner across Brewery Gulch in May and posting photos of the 1907 picnic (BDR, 1908b,c,d,e). Approximately 1000 people from Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Naco, and Tombstone enjoyed a variety of entertainments and "ample shade in which to seek protection from the sun."

The Warren District Democratic Club organized a barbecue at Lewis Springs on Sunday, August 30, 1908 at Lewis Springs (BDR, 1908f,g,h,i,j). Preparations for the barbecue were extensive.

Two barbecue experts and approximately six men traveled to Lewis Springs to dig a pit three feet wide, three feet deep, and more than 100 feet long. Iron bars were placed across the pit, and a heavy wire netting was spread across the bars to hold the whole quarters of meat that were turned and basted with sauces until done after approximately three or four hours of barbecuing.

While the picnic was primarily intended for Cochise Democrats, it attracted wider attention, including participation by Mark Smith, Arizona Territorial Delegate to Congress and prominent politician. The barbecue was more successful than expected and drew an estimated 2500 to 3000 people, including other prominent Democratic Arizona politicians. Trains brought people from Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Naco, and elsewhere. The 11 coaches provided for the train from Bisbee were not enough, and approximately 100 people were left at the railroad platform there. People who made it to Lewis Springs listened to speeches, danced, swam, ate good food, and relaxed in the shade.

The year 1909 saw another successful excursion season for the Lewis Springs resort. The Bisbee Red Men and the Eagles gave the two largest picnics that year. The Red Men began advertising in April for a Sunday, May 16 outing (BDR, 1909a,c,e,g; TE, 1909). The night before the event, more than 200 members dressed in costumes paraded through Bisbee, and gave "tribal war-whoops." A large crowd from Bisbee traveled in a special train that pulled 10 coaches, packed with hardly any standing room available.

MINERS' PICNIC

—AT—

LEWIS SPRINGS

Sunday, Sept. 22.

SPECIAL TRAIN WILL LEAVE BISBEE 9:30 AND RETURNING WILL LEAVE LEWIS SPRINGS AT 6 p. m.

First Class Music in attendance. Sack Races, Boys and Girls Races, and other sports. Come and spend a pleasant day under the shade trees beside clear waters.

From Bisbee Daily Review, September 18, 1907..

Greater Grander Than Ever

EAGLES REUNION AND PICNIC

LEWIS SPRINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th.

Special train leaves 9 a. m. \$1.00 Round Trip.

This picnic will exceed all previous efforts. Bisbee Brass Band will play on the ground. There will be Dancing, Music and Juggling by Prof. A. C. Tobin, in Four Acts. Base Ball, Bisbee Rulers vs. Tombstone Stars. Races of all kinds. Swimming contests and many other attractions. All kinds of lunches and refreshments served on the grounds.

See Programme

From Bisbee Daily Review, June 7, 1908.

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Another excursion train brought people from Tombstone. An orchestra began playing as soon as people arrived and continued throughout the day. The festivities included athletic events, a boxing exhibition, swimming, lunch, and dancing in the pavilion. Several picnickers stayed overnight in the Lewis Springs area, hunted the next day, and then returned to Bisbee on a regularly scheduled train.

The Bisbee Eagles held their picnic on Sunday, June 13, 1909 (BDR, 1909h,i,j,k). The evening before, 50 Eagles and a band paraded around Bisbee dressed in white shirts, duck trousers, straw hats and ties and holding parasols of national colors. Festivities at the picnic included races, a diving exhibition at the natatorium, and dancing to the accompaniment of music from a band.

Three smaller outings rounded out the 1909 Lewis Springs 1909 season. On Saturday May 15, approximately 40 members of Masonic orders and their friends traveled by train in a special passenger coach to Lewis Springs (BDR, 1909b,f). A June 17 picnic given by the Bisbee Sunday Schools attracted about 250 people (BDR, 1909m,n). Approximately 125 members of the Bisbee S.S. Sloga, a popular Slavonian society, enjoyed a Sunday picnic at Lewis Springs on August 15 (BDR, 1909a,p). The outing included athletic contests such as races, throwing heavy rocks, and jumping. Women drew straws for prizes.

The Bisbee Red Men and Eagles in 1910 again held the largest picnics at Lewis Springs. The Red Men began advertising in April for their annual picnic on Sunday, May 15 (BDR, 1910a,c,d,e). About 700 people went to Lewis Springs and, when there, rushed for the tables. Those who had brought lunches spread out their food. However, most visitors preferred eating at the Red Men's lunch counter. Other activities included races, a baseball game, and swimming. Dancing at the pavilion to the accompaniment of the 12-piece Royal orchestra was very popular, with participants enjoying themselves there right up until train departure time.

The Bisbee Eagles picnic was on June 12 (BDR, 1910b,h,i,j,k,l). Approximately 125 Eagles, headed by Alden's band, paraded through Bisbee on the night of June 11. The men wore a costume of white duck trousers; white shirts; red, white, and blue neckties; sailors' straw hats; and a small cane to which was attached a small pennant bearing on a red background the initials FOE in white and a white image of a flying eagle on a blue background. The excursion train from Bisbee had nine passenger coaches.

About 600 people enjoyed the picnic, whose menu included turkey, spring chicken, fresh boiled ox tongue, fresh boiled ham, coffee, bread and butter, cold cantaloupes, oranges, and ice cream. Cigars, tobacco, and cigarettes were also available. The Southwestern Ice Company donated 2000 pounds of ice for use during the picnic. Participants had their choice of swimming, relaxing in the shade, dancing, and watching or competing in races.

Special Excursion

Lewis Springs, Sunday, June 12

Account EAGLES picnic the EL PASO & SOUTHWESTERN, will sell round trip tickets to Lewis Springs and return on June 12th as follows:-

Benson	\$1.00	Hereford	.65
Douglas	\$1.50	Naco	\$1.00
Don Luis	\$1.00	O-born	\$1.00
Fairbanks	50	Tombstone	\$1.00
	Bisbee		\$1.00

Children 5 to 12, one half of above rate. No baggage will be checked on these tickets. Tickets on sale and good for return only on above date.

SPECIAL TRAIN.

Leaves, Bisbee, 8:30, a. m.; returning leaves, Lewis Springs 6, p. m.

J. E. GRAVES, Agent, Bisbee, Arizona

EUGENE FOX, Gen. Passenger Agt., El Paso, Texas

From Bisbee Daily Review, May 8, 1910.

Smaller organizations also held outings at Lewis Springs. Bisbee Sunday schools gave their annual picnic on Tuesday, June 7 (BDR, 1910f,g). Individuals sometimes organized picnics. For example, George Pattullo of Hereford held a picnic and barbecue on Sunday July 31, 1910 for ranch men of the OR outfit and other of his friends (BDR, 1910m). After the approximately 100 visitors had enjoyed the barbecue, they danced until early Monday morning to the accompaniment of a five-piece orchestra from Fort Huachuca.

The largest event at Lewis Springs in 1911 was the combined annual picnic of the Bisbee Red Men and Eagles on May 14, 1911 (BDR, 1911a,b,g,gg,h,i,j; TE, 1911a). In preparation, the pool was cleaned, a new supply of bathing

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suits purchased, and concessions awarded. The Copper Queen provided drinks, I.C.E. Adams obtained the lunch and ice cream concession, and W.P. Martin received the franchise for operating a shooting gallery. Activities included a swimming match, a balloon ascension with a "dip of death from a parachute, and a high dive sensation transported from Los Angeles," and "all manner of booths." The picnic was very successful, with approximately 2000 people. Bisbee alone sent 11 coach loads of passengers to the resort, and nearly 100 came from Tombstone. While many people came by railroad, a considerable number arrived by automobiles and carriages and wagons.

Other 1911 events at Lewis Springs consisted of smaller groups. Bisbee Sunday schools held a picnic on Saturday May 6, with free swimming at the natatorium, which had been filled with clean spring water (BDR, 1911c,d,e). Nineteen members of the picnic consisted of YMCA physical director Kitchel and 18 scouts that Kitchel led on an approximately 30-mile hike from Bisbee to Lewis Springs the day before. Black residents of Cochise County celebrated Emancipation Day on June 19 and heard speeches (BDR, 1911k,m). Many African-Americans from Douglas attended, but there were only about 25-30 from Bisbee. The Irish Nationalists sponsored a picnic on Sunday, June 18, 1911 (BDR, 1911l). The society awarded prizes to contest winners, with the "most popular girl" taking away a "beautiful diamond ring."

Not every 1911 event was successful. Heavy rainstorm washed out the June 12 picnic of the Bisbee S.S. Sloga, a popular Slavonian society, soaking participants along with other smaller groups of picnickers who had come to the area for a day of rest (TE, 1911b).

The Douglas Eagles kicked off the 1912 season with a picnic on May 19, 1912 (BDR, 1912c,d,e). A special train carried Douglas Eagles to Lewis Springs and on the way picked up a large crowd from Bisbee. The Bisbee Daily Review on May 11 predicted that "While dancing will be one of the main features of the day, the cool shade of the Lewis Springs Grove will prove a great attraction to prospective patrons. That grove has become famous throughout the Southwest." Shade and dancing were not the only attractions. There were also athletic sports with prizes for the winners and concessions for soft drinks and lunches.

On the same day that the Douglas Eagles held their picnic, the Bisbee Eagles and Red Men advertised in the Bisbee Daily Review about their annual joint outing for Sunday, June 16 (BDR, 1912g). The joint picnic had been publicly announced the week before, and that announcement and the newspaper advertisement and distribution of placards was earlier than normal (BDR, 1912f). The early advertising was because the Douglas Eagles had advertised their excursion as an "Eagles Picnic," creating confusion among Bisbee residents.

The Eagles and Red Men spent a month arranging for the picnic (BDR, 1912j). The grounds were thoroughly cleaned, seats put beneath the shade trees, and the swimming pool cleaned. Sport contests included a fat man's race (first prize, 50 cigars, 2nd prize, quart of whiskey); 110-yard dash (first prize, pair of Regal shoes, 2nd prize, 50 cigars); sack race for boys under 16 (first prize, catcher's mitt, 2nd prize, jar of preservatives); married women's race (first prize, 100 pounds sack of flour, 2nd prize, 3 pounds of coffee; young ladies' race (first prize, violet holder, 2nd prize, a parasol); and girls' race (first prize, No. 2 Brownie Kodak, 2nd prize, box of candy). A special excursion train left Bisbee at 8 am and departed Lewis Springs at 5:45 pm (BDR, 1912g). Approximately 800 people traveled from the Bisbee area to the picnic by train and many more by automobiles, carriages, or wagons (BDR, 1912k).

**Remember To Save Enough
To Attend**

== FIRST ==

PICNIC OF SEASON

AT

**LEWIS SPRINGS
SUNDAY, MAY 19th**

**Round Trip From Bisbee \$1.00
Children Half Fare.**

FIRST, BIGGEST, BEST

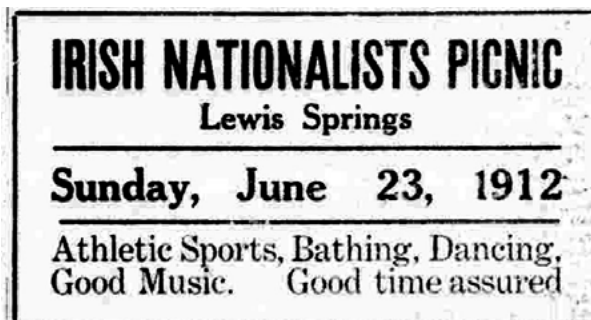
**Come with the Douglas Eagles on their Special Train
DANCING, ATHLETIC SPORTS
Music by Prof. Smith's Band and Orchestra.**

From Bisbee Daily Review, May 10, 1912.

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Three other organizations provided smaller outings in 1912. The Bisbee Order of Owls held a picnic on Sunday May 5, (BDR, 1912a). Bisbee's Sunday schools held another picnic on Thursday, June 20, 1912 (BDR, 1912l). Sunday school children from Tombstone also participated in the picnic, leaving the mining town via a special train at 5:20 am and returning home by a train leaving the picnic at 6 pm (BDR, 1912o). The Irish Nationalists provided a picnic on June 23 (BDR, 1912i,j,m,n). The approximately 180 participants could enjoy a lunch, ice cream,

lemonade, a shooting gallery, a game in which people threw balls at a target to dunk a person into a tank of water, athletic sports, swimming, dancing, and music.



From Bisbee Daily Review, June 9, 1912.

In preparation for the 1913 season, the Boquillas Cattle and Land Company improved the recreational facilities in the spring (BDR, 1913c). Laborers graded much of the area, sowed grass to provide lawns beneath the trees, erected additional tables and benches, repaired the swimming pool, and constructed an artificial lake equipped with pleasure boats.

The Bisbee Eagles and the Red Men in 1913 decided to again have the largest outing of the year and began planning in April for their June 8 joint picnic (BDR, 1913a,b,e,f,g,i,k; EPH, 1913). The natatorium and picnic grounds were cleaned. A joint committee organized advertising in Bisbee, Douglas, El Paso, Tombstone, and Tucson. The outing included automobile and motorcycle races from Bisbee to Lewis Springs that were scheduled to conclude at the picnic grounds shortly after arrival of the excursion train from Bisbee. A train with up to 12 passenger coaches was scheduled to leave Bisbee at 7:45 am and depart from the picnic grounds at 5:30 pm, arriving in Bisbee in time for "the evening shows."

An estimated 5000 or more people watched a parade in Bisbee by the Bisbee and Douglas Eagles and the Red Men on the evening of June 7, 1913. A prancing steed and several other horses headed the parade. An advance guard of mounted Red Men dressed as Indians rode in front of the C & A Band, followed by more than 150 Eagles marching in their white uniforms. A large contingent of men, women, and children followed on foot.

A crowd that the Bisbee Daily Review estimated as upwards of 3000, and the El Paso Herald reported as 6000, attended the festivities on Sunday, June 8, 1913. The Bisbee Daily Review opined that this was the largest crowd that ever left the city for any event, and the greatest crowd that ever assembled at the picnic grounds in a single day. The railroad sold 1807 tickets at the Bisbee depot before the picnic joint committee halted sales because the railroad could provide only 12 cars for the outgoing trip. The railroad managed to find another two cars for the return trip, but even with those, many people stood all the way back to Bisbee. Hundreds of the people turned away from the train found other transportation and practically all automobiles and other vehicles in Bisbee were in use.

People who did manage to reach Lewis Springs consumed more than 1200 barbecued meals, more than 1600 bottles of soda, and several hundred gallons of ice cream, plus many gallons of coffee. The beer supply, however, ran out at 2 pm and the train started home half an hour earlier than scheduled. The crowd included several Eagles from Douglas who were in uniform and came by a train from Douglas. People at the picnic area were able to watch the conclusion of the automobile and motorcycle races, participate in or view foot races, enjoy good meals, relax, dance, and swim.

Smaller societies also scheduled picnics. The Douglas Eagles held a picnic on Sunday, May 25 that included music from a 30-piece band, refreshments, races, ballgames, and dancing (BDR, 1913d). A week later on June 1, the United Slav societies of Bisbee sponsored a picnic (BDR, 1913h). On June 18, 305 people at the Bisbee's Sunday school picnic did their best to consume the 140 gallons of lemonade provided, ate lunch, and watched a baseball game between ministers and YMCA staff (BDR, 1913j,l).

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In 1914, the Bisbee Eagles and Red Men again held the largest event of the year with a picnic on June 7 (BDR, 1914g,h,i,j; TE, 1914a,b). An estimated more than 1400 people traveled from Bisbee to Lewis Springs and back in 14 passenger coaches. Wind and dust somewhat marred the celebrations, but Bisbee residents were happy with the events and after their 7:30 pm return to town “kept the streets alive until a late hour.” Tombstone residents attended but had to do so by horse-drawn carriage or automobile because the railroad needed all its equipment for use on the mainline. The Tombstone Epitaph reported that the town “was practically deserted” and that “Every available rig and auto was engaged to make the trip . . .” Politicians who were candidates for reelection were especially well represented at the picnic.

Smaller organizations also enjoyed the resort in 1914. The Douglas Eagles held a picnic on Sunday May 10 with many concessions, a 10-round boxing fight, and a high dive of 110 feet into the artificial lake (BDR, 1914c,d,e). Students of the Bisbee Loretto school picnicked on Wednesday, May 20 (BDR, 1914f). African-Americans from Bisbee and Douglas celebrated Emancipation Day on Friday, June 19 and enjoyed hearing a Douglas orchestra, eating refreshments brought from Bisbee, consuming basket dinners, dancing, and listening to speeches (BDR, 1914k,p). The Copper Queen band on June 21 led a parade of Slavonians to the depot where members took a special train to the resort (BDR, 1914l,o). Bisbee’s Sunday school children, parents, and friends picnicked at Lewis Springs on Wednesday, June 24 (BDR, 1914m,n).

The year 1915 was the last with large events at Lewis Springs. The Bisbee Eagles, Red Men, and Knights of Pythias sponsored the largest outing on Sunday, June 13 (BDR, 1915c,d,e,f,g). The night before the picnic, the three societies paraded through Bisbee accompanied by the Copper Queen musicians. Boys and girl dressed in Indian costumes joined the ranks of the Red Men. The picnic differed from previous ones by being the first dry picnic held by a Bisbee Lodge. Bisbee Mayor Adams secured the concession for handling ice cream and lunches at the picnic. Funds raised by the festivities went to a building project for a Bisbee auditorium. A special train with 11 passenger coaches left Bisbee at 8 am and departed the picnic area at 5 pm.

Two other organizations sponsored notable events in 1915. The Loretta Academy held a picnic on Wednesday, May 19 (BDR, 1915b). African-Americans celebrated Emancipation Day on Saturday, June 19 (BDR, 1915h).

The only organized outing to Lewis Springs from Bisbee in 1916 apparently was that of the children of Loretto Academy and their parents on Thursday, May 25 (BDR, 1916b). The participants left early in the morning in special passenger cars and returned to Bisbee at 7:30 pm.

During 1916, the Bisbee Eagles instead of organizing a picnic at Lewis Springs promoted a carnival within Bisbee from March 6-12 to raise funds for building a lodge on Main Street (BDR, 1916a,c). In June, members were not preparing for an excursion to Lewis Springs but instead looking forward to the completion of the new Bisbee lodge and preparing for a Fourth of July parade. The Red Men also did not organize an outing but rather kept busy in Bisbee with activities such as meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month in Medigovich Hall (BDR, 1916d).

Events engendered by World War I, economic problems, and then labor troubles probably played a role in ending large-scale picnics at Lewis Springs. The outbreak of war in Europe resulted in Great Britain placing copper on a conditional contraband list, unless it could be clearly demonstrated that shipments were destined for neutral countries. Copper prices plunged in late 1914 and hundreds of Bisbee miners lost their jobs. Refugees streamed north from civil war-torn Mexico to seek shelter with relatives in the Bisbee area. By late December 1914, an estimated 800 to 1000 people were destitute in the area, mostly Mexican but also including many from other ethnic groups (Bailey, 2002, p. 222-234; BDR, 1914s).

Copper prices rebounded in 1915, and by the summer of 1916 copper mines were running at capacity. However, labor troubles ensued in 1917, and by June 27, nearly half the workforce of the three major mining companies in Bisbee were on strike. The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917. The federal government operated the nation’s railroads from December 28, 1917 until March 1, 1920, presumably making impossible excursion trains to Lewis Springs.

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Pond at Lewis Springs. Courtesy of Ron Stewart.

Other factors also probably decreased interest in large-scale outings at Lewis Springs after 1915. The scheduling on June 1913 of the train back to Bisbee from the Eagles' and Red Men's picnic to allow for attendance at the "evening shows" foreshadowed the increasing popularity of theatrical events. The Bisbee Daily Review had ever-increasing advertisements for theaters that offered vaudeville shows and movies. Newspaper articles about outings to Lewis Springs became shorter and less frequent. A family of two adults and two children between the ages of five and 12 had to pay \$3 for round-trip excursion fare between Bisbee and Lewis Springs. There were no doubt expenses to use the natatorium, partake of the games at the midway, and enjoy food offered at the site. Theaters in 1912 had admission prices ranging from five to 50 cents. Train trips between Bisbee and Lewis Springs took several hours versus quick access to entertainment within Bisbee. The railroad sometimes could not supply enough coaches for the picnics, resulting in some people not being able to attend and in others having to stand during the more than hour long trips each way.

Bisbee business interests may have been happy to see large excursions to Lewis Springs stop. GK Reynolds, one of the investors in the resort,

wrote to the Bisbee Daily Review on June 16, 1909 (BDR, 1909I). Reynolds stated that he did not view such outings as detrimental to Bisbee business interests because an opportunity to enjoy the scenery and surroundings at Lewis Springs "once in a while" was "always beneficial to any working or business person."

The development of Frick's Park in the Upper Tombstone Canyon in 1914 provided Bisbee residents with a nearby place that had trees, good scenery, and room for small groups of people (BDR, 1914a,b,q,r).

The Lewis Springs area that once hosted thousands of people at a time gradually became forgotten. Abandoned buildings collapsed or were scavenged for building supplies. Little remains at the Lewis Springs area to indicate that it was once a very popular regional resort.

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New & Renewing Members, November through mid-March

Gerry Adams & Kathy Butterworth*; Mary Ann & Jerry Ambrose; Ginny Anton; Eric Aronson; Ginny Bealer; Bob Blanchard; Dave & Catherine Bly; Donna Boe; Terry Brooks & Barry McKenzie*; John Broz; Joelle Buffa*; June Campbell*; Margaret & Bill Case; Madeleine Charron*; Ken & Christi Charters; Pam & Charles Corrado; David Crowley*; Duane & Lynn Daugherty; Philip Davis; Paul Deecken; Bruce & Pat Dillingham; Ginger Doran & Melissa Keller*; Paul Edwardson*; Joel Fago*; Elise Foladare; Salvatore Frumentti*; Tricia Gerrodette; Sheila Gershen; Betty Goble; James Godshalk & Marjorie Lundy; Ken Gray & Barbara Grabowski; Vance Haynes; Jon Hazen; Lee & Charla Henney*; Anna & John Howard; Hank & Peter Huisling; Carol Jelinek; Steve Johnson*; Mary Ann Jones; Tom & Genie Kelly; Bob & Sandy Kenny; Robert King; Denny Kitchen; Lorena & Mark Krenitsky; Gabrielle LaFargue; Gary & Linda Lawrence; Kenneth Lawson; Rodney Leist*; Brandon Lloyd*; Kathann Lynche; Karen & William McGowan; Marion MacDonald & Dennis Nendza*; Maura Mack & Benjamin Lopez; Susan Mathews*; Cecile McKee & Jesse Zoernig; Jonathan Lee-Melk; Gary & Gretchen Michaels*; Alice Moffitt; Anne Morris & David Steed; Miriam & Michael Moss; Ted & Melanie Mouras; Charles Mullany*; Fritz Neuhauser; Gary Noonan; Richard & Cheryl Osburn*; David & Christine Pearson; Marie Pinto; Al & Dee Puff; Mary Raje; Norman Richey*; John Rose; Angel Rutherford; Deanna Sanner; Karl & Mary Schneider; Heidi Schubert; Kathy Scott; Daniel Peter Siminski*; Kirk & Linda Stitt; David Tannebaum*; Scott & Mary Tillman; Doris Turner; George & Ruth Van Otten; Sue Walker; Lloyd Walters & Family; Lloyd Walters & Family; Richard Webster; Erika Wilson; Connie Wolcott & Janet Holzworth

* = New member



Dedicated volunteers manned an outdoor information station during the three weeks that San Pedro House was closed due to the roof replacement. Thank you, volunteers! Photo by Ron Stewart.

Events Calendar, April-June 2018

San Pedro House Open as Visitor Center (Daily),
9:30 am-4:30 pm

Fairbank School House Open as a Visitor Center
(Friday-Sunday), 9:30 am-4:30 pm

Understanding the River Interpretive Walks

Every Saturday at SPH

- » 8 am—April 7, 14, 21, 28
- » 8 am—May 5, 12, 19, 26
- » 8 am—June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

FSPR Bird Walks

Every Wednesday & 4th Saturday at SPH

- » 7 am—April 4, 11, 18, 25, 28

2nd Wednesday & 4th Saturday at SPH

- » 7 am—May 9, 26
- » 7 am—June 13, 23

FSPR/SABO Bird Walks

Every Sunday at Sierra Vista Environmental
Operations Park (EOP)

- » 7 am—April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- » 7 am—May 6, 13, 20, 27
- » 7 am—June 3, 10, 17, 24

History Hikes

- » March 24—Grand Central Mill, 9 am
- » March 31—Murray Springs Clovis Site, 9 am
- » April 7—Clanton Ranch, 9 am
- » April 14—Millville Ruins & Petroglyphs, 9 am
- » April 21—Fairbank Historic Townsite, 9 am
- » April 28—Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, 9 am
- » May 5—Grand Central Mill, 9 am

SABO Hummingbird Banding

Saturdays, unless otherwise noted; observe from
4-6 pm at SPH

- » March 31
- » April 7, 16 (Mon), 21, 28
- » May 5, 12, 19, 26
- » June 2

30 Years of Conservation 1988-2018

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area was designated by Congress on November 18, 1988 to permanently protect approximately 40 miles of the upper San Pedro River. The primary purpose for the designation is to protect and enhance the desert riparian ecosystem, a rare remnant of what was once an extensive network of similar riparian systems throughout the Southwest.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Friends of the San Pedro River are committed to protecting and preserving this invaluable resource for the public to enjoy.

Join us in celebrating 30 years of conservation.

Contact List

- President—Robert Weissler
- Vice-President—Charles Corrado
- Treasurer—Renell Stewart
- Secretary—Sally Rosén
- Directors—Charles Corrado, Pam Corrado, Tricia Gerrodette, Robert Luce, Steve Ogle, Sally Rosén, Renell Stewart, Ron Stewart, Robert Weissler
- Docent Activities—Ron Stewart
- Education—John Rose
- Membership—Carolyn Santucci
- Newsletter Editor—Sue Leskiw
- Office Manager—Carolyn Santucci
- Bookstore Manager—Laura Mackin

To contact any of the above individuals, please call the office at 520-459-2555 or send us e-mail at fspr@sanpedroriver.org or sanpedrohouse@sanpedroriver.org.
Mailing address: 4070 East Avenida Saracino, Hereford, AZ 85615; Fax: 520-459-7334
Website: www.sanpedroriver.org

Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to the conservation of the River and the health of its ecosystems through advocacy, educational programs, and interpretive events.

Friends of the San Pedro River
4070 East Avenida Saracino
Hereford AZ 85615