



Fall Newsletter, 2018

Hello to all our members, visitors and volunteers!

Welcome back from all your summer adventures, whether that meant traveling or hunkering down in the air conditioning to read a good book! Over the summer Maricopa County Parks and Recreation continued its significant physical improvements to the grounds of the Hassayampa River Preserve. But more exciting is both the reinvigoration of our longtime programs and bringing onboard new programs and events which are attracting more people and appreciation to the Preserve.

So What's Been Happening?



Here are the lucky kids who got to attend the Hassayampa River Preserve Nature Camp this summer! This signature program has been a priority for Friends of Hassayampa for many years and exemplifies the importance we place on helping kids learn about conservation and the natural world by direct experience. We continue to provide funding for snacks and gave honoraria to two volunteer staff, while the County has picked up the costs of staffing and materials. This past June we had more kids than ever!



Who is that??? It's the visiting black vulture, "Mojo", at the **Bats and Buzzards** event on the downtown Wickenburg walking bridge. The snowbirds and ropers may just be getting here (Welcome back!), but the vultures and Mexican freetailed bats were gathering to make their own migration south. Ranger Eric Hough came up with this idea and over 300 people enjoyed learning about and viewing the bats who take off from under the Rt. 93/60 bridge at sunset while the vultures gather in the highest eucalyptus trees for the night.

Friends of Hassayampa helped sponsor Wild at Heart's visit with their rescued bird. Did you miss it? The plan is to have another event when the birds and bats arrive in the spring. We're happy to see the Hassayampa River Preserve staff take their knowledge and enthusiasm right into the center of Wickenburg!

Hassayampa Halloween

Is there a better way to sweeten learning about the natural world? On October 20th we helped out with the first Hassayampa Halloween. Nature Rangers helped carve pumpkin decorations and then joined other kids and adults walking along luminaria lit (and spooky!) trails to learn about night creatures (Here's our Mary Raver at the Bat Station!), the moon, glowing rocks and, of course, to collect candy treats. Sixty three people took in this new event we know will grow over the years.



Around the Garden

If you haven't visited the garden recently, now is the time to go. With the October rains the garden has been blossoming like a second spring. It has also benefited from expert pruning of the trees in the spring. Friends of Hassayampa funds were used to provide the pruning by Sonoran Tree Service; Friends of Hassayampa volunteers did the clean up! Our thanks to Deb and Dale Keiser and especially to Ron and Pat Sigler, who put so much into the ongoing work and care for this amazing educational garden. Our new FOH bird feeders have been a big hit with birds and visitors alike. Viewing there has been a first stop for bird watching groups (along with cameras large and small!). Lazuli buntings were among the first unusual birds to be seen taking advantage.

Join Us for Birds 'N' Brunch on Thursday, December 13th

Some of the proceeds of this event which will combine good birding and good eating will benefit FOH. Sign up early, there are only 14 spaces available.

How YOU can help carry on the work of Friends of Hassayampa

- Your donations are what keep FOH programs and outreach going! It's easy to donate at the FOH website (FOHarizona.org).

-Please bookmark the **AmazonSmile** URL and use it when shopping on Amazon this holiday season and beyond. Select Friends of Hassayampa as your charitable organization and Amazon donates .5 % of your purchases to our cause. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0940900>

-Become a member if you're not already. We'll keep you updated on activities at the Preserve and use your sponsorship fee for continued support of activities and projects. It is still \$35.00 to join. Membership forms are available at the Nature Center or at FOHarizona.org.

-Volunteer! We need your ideas and help! The company is good, and by volunteering we expand the ability of the staff to focus on their programs. We can also use help on the Board!

Enjoy this fall season and come join us at the Hassayampa River Preserve! See you there!

Friends of Hassayampa

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