

**Friends of the San Pedro River**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 11, 2008**

1. Call to order at 1800.
2. Members present: Chris Long, Ted Mouras, Sally Rosen, Anne Graf, Alan Blixt, John Rose, Dutch Nagle, Robert Weissler, Jann Weiss, and representing BLM Tom Dabbs.
3. The Board approved the minutes from the October 2008 meeting.
4. Treasurer's report (**Jann Weiss**). The Fiscal 2009 budget anticipates a loss of about \$5000. We expect sales to be down 10% to 15% at the bookstores due to the overall slowdown in the economy. The treasurer suggested budget cuts in a few areas, particularly advertising so that we can still afford a 3% salary increase for our paid employees. The Board approved the projected budget, including the pay raise. All agreed that we keep close watch on the finances this year and adjust the budget as necessary.
5. President's report (**Chris Long**)
  - a. Rendezvous of Friends. The National Conservation System Foundation sponsored this event. Members of BLM Friends organizations from around the west attended. The event provided an opportunity for Friends to share information and success stories. It was an excellent conference and, if it offered in future years, I recommend that FSPR attend.
  - b. Look for grants for birdseed. Ted explained that we have the best luck with grants for publications and brochures. Our requests for grants for birdseed have not been successful. Based on this we will concentrate on requests for support to our printed educational materials.
  - c. Visit to SPRNCA by Lynn Scarlett (Lynn Scarlett Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior), Nov 14, 3-5 PM. She specifically requested a bird walk. BLM will escort her on a short tour of the San Pedro House trails.
  - d. Visit to SPRNCA by Helene Aarons, BLM Director of Partnership Programs. After attending the Rendezvous, Ms. Aarons made a visit to the SPRNCA. We introduced her to the San Pedro House, Laura, Dawk, and Nadine from the DAR. She expressed interest in how we run bookstore operations and Laura answered her questions. Ms. Aarons also expressed great interest in the fact that the SPH is solar powered. The partnership with the Cochise County Master Gardeners and their xeriscape was also of interest to her.
6. Bureau Of Land Management Report (**Tom Dabbs**).

- a. The “walk the fence” project was successful. The teams marked and reported many gaps in the fence that BLM will work to repair and/or work with the property owner on any issues.
- b. December 3<sup>rd</sup> is BLM’s Employee Appreciation day.
- c. **Dutch** requested that BLM update the “Research Projects” list that we post on our website.
- d. **Alan** requested that, when possible, the trail along the tree line from Ramsey/Carr Wash back to Garden wash be mowed. He also requested that, now that rainy season is over, the benches on the river trail at SPH be replaced with the “cottonwood” type benches.
- e. **Ted** asked the status of the “Rails to Trails.” Tom said that it seemed to be stalled at the railroad’s actions. Ted suggested that a note to Rep Giffords might help to get things moving again.

7. Program Reports.

- a. Docent Program (**Chris Long**). Volunteer is needed to run the April Docent program. Chris will continue to assist with the Docent Manual and other materials, but someone needs to stop forward to set up the schedule and arrange for the speakers and field exercises.
- b. Education Program (**John Rose**). This is a busy year. Three walks already in November and seven more scheduled. **John** can always use more help. If you know anyone interested in working with the education program, please encourage them to get in touch with John. He has received a great deal of help from Ginny Bealer and Jan Chambers.
- c. Equestrian Program (**Nancy Doolittle**). The equestrian program continues to attract riders. The November event at Fairbank had seven participants who worked to ensure that the trails are clear of obstacles that might be a problem for riders.
- d. Maintenance Program (Vacant).
  - (1) **Ted Mouras** reported that he is in contact with a couple, new to the area, who are interested in helping with trail maintenance. He will continue coordination with them.
  - (2) **Ted** also reported that the Cochise County Master Gardeners have officially adopted the maintenance of the xeric gardens. They have a formal statement on what they will do at SPH and will coordinate with BLM to prepare their group volunteer agreement. The gardens are a wonderful asset at SPH and we all very much appreciate the effort made by the Master Gardeners.
  - (3) The Daughters of the American Revolution are coordinating to adopt the wildlife gardens at SPH. They have already done a great deal of work clearing weeds from the Memorial Garden and other parts of the Wildlife areas around SPH. **Ted** will continue to work with them to formalize the agreement.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Membership Committee (Vacant)
  - (1) “Business” Friends proposal (**Robert Weissler**). Robert suggested that we might be able to attract more business members if we offered them a listing on our website. **BLM** will check if this type of “commercial” advertising is appropriate/legal.
- b. Education Committee (**John Rose**). Nothing to report.
- c. Public Outreach (**Ted Mouras**).

(1) Jeff Williamson of the Phoenix Zoo will work with **Ted** to help “get the word out” about the SPRNCA in the Phoenix area. He has a statewide education program called “Children in Nature Network.” We provided him our DVDs and he will use them in his promotional work.

(2) **Ted** is also working with T-Break in Tucson on getting more information about the SPRNCA in to the Tucson area.

9. Old Business.

a. Cultural Docent Program (**Ron Serviss**). Ron is working with Perrie Barnes to finalize the curriculum. It will concentrate on four Public Access sites: Terrenate, Fairbank, Millville, and Murray Springs. It will also include some information on protected archaeological sites and ethics. He is still aiming for January/February timeframe.

b. 2010 Photo Calendar (**Gary Noonan**).

(1) This year FSPR will open the submissions to a larger group, not limit it just to FSPR and BLM. We will also have several specific categories for submissions. **Gary** will write an article for the newsletter explaining the image resolution requirements.

(2) Dutch made several suggestions for improvements to the calendar format. These will be passed along to Gary.

c. FSPR History (**Gary Noonan**). The history is now in Publisher format. Any remaining formatting will be done by the printer and FSPR will pay for that formatting.

d. Visitor Survey (Chris Long). The Visitor Survey is printed and in use at both visitor centers (SPH and FSH). FSH is very successful in getting visitors to spend the few moments required to fill out the form (since nearly every visitor to Fairbank comes into the Schoolhouse when it is open). We need to draw more attention to the questionnaire at SPH. **Chris** will make a sign to put over the clipboard and the volunteers will ask the visitors if they would take a few moments to fill out the form.

e. Review 2008/2009 Calendar. We made several additions to the calendar. IMBD/Spring Fest is 9 May and there will be a Trash Pickup Day along the river at SPH on 30 May. **Chris** will put them in and resend the calendar to the Board members.

f. Christmas Potluck – 12 December. The informal Christmas potluck will be held at San Pedro House on Friday 12 December from 5 PM to 8 PM. This will be announced in the current Newsletter, in the December Monthly Events Flyer, and **Chris** will include it when she sends out the monthly “request for hours” e-mail. The event is always fun, so let all your Friends know the date and time.

g. Xeriscape Report (**Ted Mouras**).

(1) As reported above, the Cochise County Master Gardeners have officially adopted the xeric gardens. Phase II is underway with plans for a swale on the east side. Brochures explaining water harvesting, xeric landscaping, and low-water use plants will also be part of Phase II. The water harvesting storage tank is now tan rather than black.

(2) The Arizona Community Foundation will hold a “Donor Appreciation” ceremony in the garden on 13 November from 3-5 PM.

10. New Business.

a. International Migratory Bird Day (May 9, 2009). Spring Fest will once again be combined with IMDB on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars. Discussion of this event also brought

up the issue of food service, catering, and vending in the SPRINCA. Tom Dabbs will coordinate with Cindy Alvarez to see how the Empire Ranch/Las Cienegas did their catering, etc. so that we can emulate. **Dutch** agreed to be the lead for this event.

b. Cochise County Tourism Council – request for Bird Walk. **Chris** agreed, on behalf of FSPR, that we will support a bird walk as a prize for the CCTC. No dates, but we will provide a guide when a winner is selected and sets a date.

d. Date for Fairbank Day . **Chris** recommended and the Board agreed that Fairbank day be combined with the Fairbank Reunion and take place in November. This gives us more time to plan and perhaps include vendors and food. This will require coordination with the Reunion participants and BLM. We need a volunteer to lead this effort.

e. Solar System at SPH status. BLM put in a service call to the Solar Store in Tucson to come and check out the system. The Solar Store installed the system. They will check whether the problems are with the system itself or if there is a drain on the electricity from a specific source. BLM will keep us informed on the status.

f. Fairbank Brochure reprint - \$650. The Board approved reprinting the Fairbank Brochure as we are completely out and need them for the various local Visitor centers as well as SPH and FSH.

g. **Ted** is working with several local artists to develop an illustrated and artistic trail guide, similar to the one used at Ramsey Canyon. This is a long-term effort. He anticipates 18 months to completion.

h. **Dutch** reported that our support at the Cochise County Master Gardeners Day was well received. We will also be present at the Fort Huachuca Safety Day sharing a table with HAS.

i. **Anne Graf** recommended that we contact Tim Vimmerstadt at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum to have our brochures offered in their local information/attractions area. **Chris** will coordinate with **Laura** to make this happen.

11. The meeting adjourned at 19:45.

12. The December Board meeting is at 18:00 on December 9<sup>th</sup>.