



OCTOBER EVENTS 2023



Friends of the San Pedro River

River Walks

The San Pedro River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southwest and is home to one of the largest cottonwood-willow riparian forests remaining in Arizona. The river and forest provide habitat for 82 species of mammals, dozens of reptiles and amphibians, and roughly 350 species of birds.

The river walks are 1.5 to 2 miles long over easy terrain, but there are places where the trail is rough. River walks are slower paced than a hike and suitable for most adults and children. All walks are free.

**Saturdays,
October 7 and 21**
River walks depart from the San Pedro House at **9:00am**

Bird Walks

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) provides habitat for over 100 species of breeding birds. The San Pedro River is also a critical avian migration corridor that provides water, food and shelter for another 250 migratory and wintering birds.

Novice and experienced bird watchers attend our bird walks to view the diverse avian community of the SPRNCA. We usually observe 30 - 60 species on these popular two-to-three-hour walks. Bring water, hat and binoculars. All are welcome, but the walks may not be suitable for young children. No dogs, please. All walks are free.

**Wednesdays,
October 11 and 25**
Bird walks depart from the San Pedro House at **7:00am**

EOP BIRD WALKS

The Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park (EOP) is open to public bird watching tours on Sunday mornings year round. Group size is limited to 15 people, first-come, first-served. Arrive before the starting time to sign a waiver and secure a spot. The 2-2.5 hours walk is behind locked gates and you must stay with the group. Bring water, hat, and binoculars. A bird checklist will be provided. All walks are free.

**Sundays,
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Meet at 7:00am
at the EOP viewing platform parking lot
(Turn North off Hwy 90 between mile markers 324 and 325)

Take a walk back in time...on one of our docent-led History Walks

Saturday, October 14, 9 a.m. Murray Springs Clovis Site

Join docents from the Friends of the San Pedro River for a tour of the Murray Springs mammoth kill site. This is an easy walk of less than a half mile, though it does include dirt steps into and out of a dry wash. There is no shade, and it will be hot on sunny days. Please realistically assess your ability to do this walk. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Meet in the parking area at Murray Springs, about 1.5 miles north of highway 90 on Moson Road (just west of the Sierra Vista EOP.) NOTE: there is no sign marking this road, but it is the only road headed east from Moson in this vicinity.

Sunday, October 15, 9:00 a.m. San Pedro House History and Tour

Join us for a tour of the San Pedro House to learn the history of the house as part of the Little Boquillas Ranch and the Foster family that lived there in the 1940s. The group will then tour the area around the house looking at historic remnants from its time as a ranch house. The tour entails about ¼ mile of walking over level trails. The tour will last about an hour. Meet a few minutes before the start time at the San Pedro House, located near the San Pedro River in the SPRNCA, about 8 miles east of Sierra Vista on State Route 90.

Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. Fairbank Historic Townsite

Tour this historic townsite with docents from the Friends of the San Pedro River. The tour of the townsite is on gravel walkways that are level. The walk to the cemetery and return is about 1 mile total. Reaching the cemetery requires walking up a short slope with poor footing and loose rock. You are welcome to participate in the townsite tour and not go to the cemetery. Come on out for this great event, to be led by Friends docent Ron Stewart. It's a good way to learn a little history of the area and enjoy some time outdoors. All ages are welcome, but small children will likely have their patience tested. Entrance to the townsite is five miles east of Whetstone on Highway 82, just east of the San Pedro River bridge. Look for a sign on the north side of the road at the entrance to the parking lot. Park in the outer lot and use the fenced trail to walk to the schoolhouse.

Saturday, October 28, 9:00 a.m. Millville Ruins and Petroglyph Trail

Take a tour of Millville, an historic silver mill, and an adjacent Indian rock art site. The tour will focus on the history of mining and this mill, part of the Tombstone silver boom. This is about a 2 mile walk on an uneven dirt and gravel trail that crosses through a deep wash. There is no shade, and it will be hot on sunny days. Please realistically assess your ability to do this walk. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Meet at the Millville Parking Area about .25 miles east of the San Pedro River, on the north side of Charleston Road. Look for a fire warning sign at the entrance.

San Pedro House
Nature Store & Visitor Information
9800 E. Highway 90,
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
Open Daily: 9:30am - 4:30pm
(520) 508-4445
sanpedrohouse@sanpedroriver.org

Friends of the San Pedro River Fairbank Schoolhouse Museum
9800 E. Highway 90,
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 459-2555
fspr@sanpedroriver.org
www.sanpedroriver.org

Fairbank Historic Townsite
Hwy 82 east of the San Pedro River
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(520) 457-3062
schoolhouse@sanpedroriver.org

HUMMINGBIRD BANDING

San Pedro House, Saturday, October 7, 4:00pm - 6:00pm



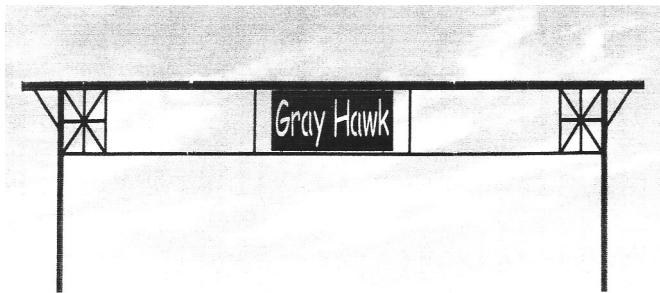
Up to 10 species of hummingbirds use the green corridor of the San Pedro River as a freeway between their tropical winter retreats and their northern nesting grounds. The public is invited to get a close-up look at these tiny travelers as staff and volunteers from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory capture, band, weigh, measure, and release them as part of long-term studies of the bird life of this vital migration route. The public is welcome to observe banding sessions at no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more info: www.sabo.org, (520)432-1388, sabo@sabo.org (Schedule subject to change)

FSPR ANNUAL MEETING Members Only!

FSPR members and their families are invited to join us on October 28th at the Gray Hawk Nature Center for our Annual Meeting. We are still working out the details, but it will include an early morning bird walk, walks to the river, a picnic, a demonstration of the critters Sandy keeps there, and our members meeting to hear an organizational update and give out volunteer awards.

For the last 30 years, Sandy Anderson, a local treasure, has run the Gray Hawk Nature Center as an animal rehab center. She also hosts tours and school groups. You may have seen her with her collection of snakes at local events. The Center is located in the Escapule Road area adjacent to the SPRNCA. It is a lovely spot where the river is generally flowing and there is abundant wildlife.

October can be busy. Save the date!



WATER SUSTAINS LIFE: Winterizing Your Backyard for Birds and Plants for Adult Beginner Gardeners



Join the Friends of the San Pedro River on Saturday, October 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the San Pedro House, 9800 E. Highway 90, Sierra Vista, for this interesting and informative class.

Local, knowledgeable presenters will talk about winterizing plants and their watering needs, how to prepare your backyard to sustain birds through the coldest months in southeast Arizona, and its importance to the conservation of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Presentations will be followed by rotating demonstrations in the San Pedro House xeriscape demonstration garden on proper pruning techniques, backyard landscapes for wintering birds, and backyard water basins and ground water recharge.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee which includes an individual Friends of the San Pedro River membership for one year. If you are already a member, your membership will be extended for one year. No refunds.

Registration is required as class size is limited to 30. Participants must be over the age of 18. Email fspr@sanpedroriver.org to register.

Upcoming History Walks Please Join Us!!

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. Clanton Ranch

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m. Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate

Sunday November 12, 9:00 a.m. San Pedro House

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. Grand Central Mill

Saturday, November 25, 10:00 a.m. Murray Springs Clovis Site

Saturday, December 2, 1:00 p.m. Fairbank Historic Townsite

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. Millville Ruins and Petroglyph Site

Sunday, December 10, 9:00 a.m. San Pedro House History and Tour

Saturday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. Clanton Ranch

