



# DECEMBER EVENTS 2023



## Friends of the San Pedro River

### A Note About Our Walks

All walks are free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome on all but the birdwatching walks. Children are welcome but younger ones will have their patience tested. For more information call (520) 508-4445 or email [fspr@sanpedroriver.org](mailto:fspr@sanpedroriver.org).

### River Walks

The San Pedro River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southwest and 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.

**Saturdays,**

**December 2 and 16**

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.

**Wednesdays,**

**December 13 and 27**

Bird walks depart from the San Pedro House at **8:00am**

### 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.

**Sundays,**

**December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Meet at 8:00am**

at the EOP viewing platform parking lot

(Turn North off Hwy 90 between mile

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

### **History Walk at Fairbank, Saturday, December 2, 1 p.m.**

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. 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.

### **History Walk to Millville and Petroglyph Site, Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m.**

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 History Walk, Sunday, December 10, 9 a.m.**

Join us for a tour of the San Pedro House. Our Friends docent will discuss 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.

### **History Walk to Clanton Ranch, Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m.**

Join a docent from the Friends of the San Pedro River for a walk to the Clanton Ranch site. Here Old Man Clanton grazed (stolen) cattle in a large pasture along the San Pedro. This site was a key location in the Wyatt Earp vs. The Cowboys epic. The round trip to the site requires 1.5 miles of walking total. The trail is uneven gravel and dirt. The last 100 feet or so are up a gradual hill on a rocky, uneven trail. Make sure you are able to handle this walk. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Meet at the parking area for the Escapule Road SPRNCA access point, located on Escapule Road, about 1.5 miles south of Charleston Road, between Sierra Vista and Tombstone. Look for a gravel parking area on the left (north) side of Escapule Road. It is the first left after you turn off of Charleston Road onto Escapule Road.

**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](mailto:sanpedrohouse@sanpedroriver.org)

**Friends of the San Pedro River**  
9800 E. Highway 90,  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
(520) 459-2555  
[fspr@sanpedroriver.org](mailto:fspr@sanpedroriver.org)  
[www.sanpedroriver.org](http://www.sanpedroriver.org)

**Fairbank Schoolhouse Museum  
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](mailto:schoolhouse@sanpedroriver.org)