



Celebrate the San Pedro!
April 27
At the
San Pedro House

The Friends of the San Pedro River are celebrating springtime and the arrival of birds migrating north. We have a number of events set for the morning of April 27th for kids, adults, and birdwatchers. During our Birding Big Day, we will do a count of bird species in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). All activities are free.

The San Pedro House is located 8 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90. Look for the turn to the south about one-half mile west of the San Pedro River. Its address is 9800 E. Highway 90, Sierra Vista, AZ, 85635. It is directly addressable as the San Pedro House in Google Maps.

Here is the overall schedule for the day:

7:00 am: Birders gather at the 5 trailheads and access points to start the species count

9:00 am: Celebrate the San Pedro River! begins at the San Pedro House

9:15 am: The Kids' Nature Walk departs the San Pedro House

11:00 am: Bird counting ceases and participants come to the San Pedro House to report

11:30 Species tally starts at 11:30 at the San Pedro House

11:45 am: We announce the winner of the Kids' Art Contest

12:00 pm: Our birding docents announce the species count and top team

12:15 pm: We announce the winners of the raffle, silent auction, and atlatl throw, and bird count guess contest

12:30 pm: The event officially ends

Information for each is below. Call our FSPR phone line, (520) 459-2555 to ask questions. Or you can send us an email at fspr@sanpedroriver.org.

Ongoing Activities

We will have these activities going on throughout Celebrate the San Pedro!

Kids' art contest

Animals of the San Pedro Valley display

Kids' coloring station

Competitive and fun atlatl throwing

Kids' book signing

Xeriscape garden exhibit for kids and adults

Information on the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

An exhibit on the Murray Springs Clovis Site

Arizona Water Wise exhibit on water conservation

10% off sale at the San Pedro House Nature Store

Silent auction

Big Birding Day on the San Pedro bird count

Kids' Art Contest

Children 12 years old and younger are invited to submit art in any medium to our Kids' Art Contest. You must bring it to the San Pedro House by 9:30 on the morning of the Celebrate the San Pedro! Event on April 27th. The name of the artist and their age along with a phone number need to be on each when submitted.

A panel of judges will view the submissions and select an overall winner. That winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate for our San Pedro House Nature Store. Second and third place winners, and winners by age category (under five, five – eight, and nine – twelve), will receive ribbons. Winners will be announced at 12:15. Winners must be present to win. You must take your art home no later than 1:00 on that day.

Other Activities for Kids

Nature Walk – 9:15 to 10:45. Join our Friends of the San Pedro River educational docents for a nature walk to the San Pedro River. Along the way, they will talk about the plants and animals that live along the river. They will collect water samples from the river and then return to the San Pedro House. At the house, they will look at the samples under the microscopes to learn about the tiny creatures that live in the river. Our docents are retired teachers who do these walks on an ongoing basis. It is a great chance to get your kids outdoors to learn about nature.

Nature Displays – 9:00 to 12:30. We will have a display of our Bone Box to help kids of all ages learn about the animals that live in the San Pedro Valley. Items include skulls, skins, and tracks along with other informational displays. Our nature docents will be on hand to help people understand what they are seeing and learn more.

Coloring – 9:00 to 12:30. We will have a Coloring Station set up that morning. Here, we will have printed sheets of natural scenes and crayons for kids to color in the spaces and create their own nature-oriented works of art. Three will be chosen to win a ribbon, to be announced and awarded at 12:15, must be present to win. You must take your coloring sheets home by 1:00.

Book Signing. Author Jill Driscoll will be on hand to sign copies of her children’s book “Tickle Time.” We carry this popular kids’ book at the San Pedro House. She will have fun things for kids. Stop by her table to meet her!

Big Birding Day on the San Pedro

This year, we are holding a Birding Big Day in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), highlighted by a “big morning” birding challenge led by the FSPR Bird Walk docents at 5 of the SPRNCA access points. You can participate in two ways. The simplest is to bird anywhere in the SPRNCA and record your sightings on eBird or stop by the Birding Big Day table at San Pedro House after 11:30 am to report your sightings. If you want a more communal experience and a little bit of competition you can join one of the 5 “big morning challenge” teams.

The birding teams will meet at 7:00 am at the different places in the SPRNCA and birdwatch at these locations until 11:00. We will meet back at San Pedro House at 11:30 am for the bird tally to see which team found the most species. The winning team members who go to the bird tally will receive a small prize to commemorate their victory. This challenge is open to birders of all experience levels and will be focused on having fun and learning about our local birds. No dogs, please. Even if you don’t get a chance to bird, stop by the Birding Big Day table at the San Pedro House and participate in a drawing to guess the total number of species the teams find. The winner will be announced at 12:15, must be present to win.

If you do want to join the challenge, here are your choices of teams and location details:

1. San Pedro House – Meet at the San Pedro House at 7:00 am. San Pedro House is located on the south side of Hwy 90 just before the San Pedro River about 8 miles east of Sierra Vista on Hwy 90. The San Pedro House has bathroom facilities and a large parking lot.
2. Hereford Bridge – Meet at the Hereford Bridge Trailhead parking lot at 7:00 am. The trailhead parking lot is on the south side of Hereford Road about 200 yards west of the

San Pedro River - it is well signed. This is not either of the pull-offs by the beginning of the guard rails to the bridge. The trailhead has bathrooms and ample parking.

3. Waters Rd – Meet at 7:00 am at the pull-off at the end of Waters Rd in Hereford where the road turns to the right and becomes Yell Lane. This is right next to the Casa De San Pedro B&B. There are quite a few parking spaces at this pull-off. The Waters Rd access point does not have bathrooms. The nearest bathrooms on SPRNCA property are at the Hereford Bridge Trailhead about a 7-minute drive away.
4. Escapule Wash – Meet at 7:00 am at the pull-offs along Escapule Rd about 0.3 miles from the intersection of Charleston Rd and Escapule Rd. These pull-offs are right around the area where the road crosses the dry wash. This is a great area for birds and is a bit of a more challenging walk. Parking is limited and there are no bathrooms. The nearest SPRNCA bathrooms are at Millville which is about a 3-minute drive away.
5. Millville – Meet at the Millville trailhead at 7:00 am. The trailhead is located on the north side of Charleston Rd .3 miles east of the San Pedro River crossing. This is not the popular parking area on the south side of Charleston Rd next to the old bridge, but rather, if coming from Sierra Vista, travel just under a .3mile further from there and look for the open gate on the left side of the road. There is a large fire danger warning sign by the entrance. Park by the bathrooms, to the left of the entrance.

Please Note: All birding activities are free of charge to participants, but you must bring your own binoculars, water, and any snacks you need to keep you going. No registration is needed, just show up at one of the locations by 7:00 am.

Activities for Adults

Atlatl Throwing Contest – 9:00 to 12:30. An atlatl is ancient device, a stick/thrower used to propel a spear. It is not easy! We will have throwers, darts, and a target and with these we will hold an atlatl contest. You may buy three throws for \$2. We will track the results and a winner will be announced at 12:15. The winner, who must be present to win, will receive 50% of the money collected for throws. The second-place winner will receive a surprise prize. This contest is open to people 14 years old and up.

Atlatl Throwing for Fun. Priority will be given to those throwing for the contest, but as time allows, we will let others throw for free/fun. 14 and older.

Sale at the San Pedro House Nature Store. Everything in the Nature Store will be on sale for 10% off during the event.

Pollinator Garden Display – 9:00 to 12:30. We will have our San Pedro House Xeriscape Garden folks on hand in our gardens, with a table at the Pollinator Garden. They will talk to

you about the pollinator garden, what has been planted there, what the plants attract, and give you advice on how you could do this. There will be activities for kids as well as adults.

Silent Auction. We will have a silent auction for three framed prints of birds. There will be a minimum for initial bid and higher bids. The winners will be announced at 12:15. You must be present to win.

Informational Displays – 9:00 to 12:00. There will be several tables set up in the ramada area with information about topics of interest. People will be at each to help explain them and answer questions. We have these displays planned:

- **Murray Springs Clovis Site.** This is one of the premiere archaeological sites in North America, and it is located in the SPRNCA. The site itself is closed at this time, so we thought we would bring it to you. Our cultural docents for Murray Springs will be on site to show you a collection of replica points and other items and discuss the site with you.

- **Recreation in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA).** The SPRNCA is a great place to hike, birdwatch, visit historic sites, ride your horse or bike, take pictures, have a picnic, or just enjoy nature. The Friends of the San Pedro River operates two visitors centers here – the San Pedro House and the Fairbank Schoolhouse. We offer guided walks for birdwatching, nature, and to historic sites. There is so much to do! We will have a table set up with information about all this to help you enjoy the area and answer your questions.

- **Arizona Water Wise.** Arizona Water Wise has as its mission to encourage conservation of water. They will be on-hand with information and a display on hydrology and things you can do to reduce water usage.