



Friends of the San Pedro River

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

April, 2024, Events Calendar

Schedule

History Walks:

April 6th, 9 am, Grand Central Mill

April 7th, 9 am, San Pedro House

April 13th, 9 am, Fairbank

April 20th, 9 am, Murray Springs

April 27th, 9 am Millville

Nature Walk: April 6th, 8 am, San Pedro House

Bird Walks:

April 3rd, 7 am, San Pedro House

April 6th, 7 am, Millville

April 10th, 7 am, San Pedro House

April 17th, 7 am, San Pedro House

April 24th, 7 am, San Pedro House

For all walks: Free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Please realistically assess your ability to do these walks – some are in remote areas far from help. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes. Bring water and a snack. 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.

Bird Walks

Millville, Saturday, April 6, 7 am. For a different birding experience, join our knowledgeable bird walk docents at a little-known birding hot spot. 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. The walk will last about 3 hours. Please realistically assess your ability to do this walk. Bring water, hat and binoculars. Meet at the Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail parking area. This trailhead is located 7.5 miles east of Sierra Vista on Charleston Road. This is not the parking area right by the river: look for the fire danger level sign on the north side of Charleston Road at the entrance to the parking lot, about .5 miles east of the river. Meet by the vault toilet. This location is searchable as "Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail" in Google Maps.

San Pedro House, 7:00 am, every Wednesday in April. The SPRNCA provides habitat for over 100 species of breeding birds. The San Pedro River is also a critical 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 area. We usually observe 30-60 species on these popular walks, which last approximately three hours. Bring water, hat and binoculars. These walks can be moderately difficult on uneven terrain. The San Pedro House is located 7 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90, on the south side of the highway. It is searchable in Google Maps.

Nature Walks

San Pedro House, 8:00 am Saturdays, April 6th and 20th. 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. On this walk we will discuss the interactions of the components that make up the ecosystem of the river and its importance to the surrounding area. The walks are 1.5 to 2 miles long over easy terrain. These are slower paced than a hike and suitable for most adults and children. The San Pedro House is located 7 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90, on the south side of the highway. It is searchable in Google Maps.

History Walks

Grand Central Mill, Saturday, April 6th, 9 a.m. Take a walk to the ruins of the historic Grand Central Mill. During the Tombstone silver boom, this stamp mill operated 24 hours a day, processing the ore brought in from Tombstone by wagons. Learn about the mining history of the area and take a three-mile round trip walk to the mill site. This walk follows an uneven dirt and gravel trail. There is limited 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. Bring water and snacks. This tour meets at the Fairbank Townsite, which is along Highway 82, 10.0 miles east of the Highway 82/90 intersection in Whetstone. The entrance to the parking area is on the north side of the highway about 0.5 mile east of the San Pedro River bridge. The tour will meet near the Schoolhouse Museum just inside the Townsite. Park in the outer lot and use the fenced trail to walk to the schoolhouse. "Fairbank AZ" is directly searchable in Google Maps.

History Walk at San Pedro House, Sunday, April 7, 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 lives of the Foster family, who 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. San Pedro House is searchable in Google Maps.

Fairbank Historic Townsite, Saturday, April 13th, 9 am. Tour with FSPR docent Ron Stewart. It's a good way to learn a little history of the area and enjoy some time outdoors. Fairbank dates to 1882 when it grew up around a train depot – the closest to Tombstone. The tour of the townsite is on level gravel walkways. Reaching the cemetery requires walking a 1-mile (total) trail and then up a short slope with poor footing and loose rock. You are welcome to participate in the tour and not go to the cemetery. The Fairbank Townsite is located 10 miles east of Whetstone on Highway 82. The entrance to the parking area is on the north side of the highway about .5 miles east of the San Pedro River. The tour will meet near the Schoolhouse Museum just inside the Townsite. "Fairbank, AZ" is searchable in Google Maps.

Murray Springs Clovis Site, Saturday, April 20th, 9 am. Join docents from the Friends of the San Pedro River for a tour of the Murray Springs mammoth kill site. Vance Haynes led an expedition here in the 1970s that found the remains of megafauna that had been hunted, killed, butchered, and consumed by the Clovis Paleo-Indians 13,000 years ago. 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. From E. Highway 90/AZ-90 in Sierra Vista, drive north on Moson Rd. for 1.28 miles and turn east. Meet the docent at the gate to the site. The entrance to the site is searchable as "Murray Springs Clovis Site" in Google Maps.

History Walk on the Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail, Saturday, April 27th, 9 am. Take a tour of Millville, the location of several historic silver mills and a once thriving town, as well as an adjacent Indian rock art site, with an FSPR docent. The tour will focus on the history of mining and the mills which were active during 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 and Petroglyph Discovery Trail parking area. This trailhead is located 7.5 miles east of Sierra Vista on Charleston Road. This is not the parking area right by the river: Look for the "Fire Danger Level" sign on the north side of Charleston Rd. at the entrance to the parking lot, about 0.5 miles east of the river. Meet by the vault toilet. This location is searchable as "Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail" in Google Maps.