



Friends of the San Pedro River

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

January, 2025 Events Calendar

HISTORY WALKS CONTINUE! See page 2!!

Nature Walks

San Pedro House, Saturdays, January 4 and 18, 9 am. 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 to moderate 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.

FSPR Bird Walks

San Pedro House, Wednesdays, January 8 and 22, and Saturday, January 25, all at 8 am. 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, a 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.

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 on these or other events, call (520) 508-4445
or email fspr@sanpedroriver.org**

Explore the History of the San Pedro River Valley on one of our January **Friends of the San Pedro River *History Walks***

Murray Springs, Saturday, January 4, 10 am

Join FSPR docent Dwight Long 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.

Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, Saturday, January 11, 10 am

Join a walking tour of the Spanish Presidio of Santa Cruz de Terrenate with FSPR docent Jeff Hustad. This fort was operational during the late 1770s, the centerpiece for a planned Spanish occupation of the San Pedro River Valley that failed. This is a three-mile round trip over trails and uneven ground. The return walk is gradually uphill. There is no shade, and it will be hot on sunny days. Meet at the Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate Trailhead, located 1.7 miles north of Highway 82 on the east side of In Balance Ranch Road. In Balance Ranch Road (N. Kellar Road on Google Maps) is a north turn off of Highway 82, 8.3 miles east of Whetstone, about 1 mile west of the San Pedro River. There is a large parking area at the Trailhead where the group will meet. "Presidio Santa Cruz Terrenate Trailhead" is searchable in Google Maps.

Millville and Petroglyph Trail, Saturday, January 18, 10 am

Walk this trail with FSPR docent Richard Bauer to visit Millville, location of two historic silver mills, and an adjacent Indian petroglyph site. 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. 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.

Grand Central Mill, Saturday, January 25, 10 am

Take a walk to the ruins of the historic Grand Central Mill with FSPR docent Merle Kilpatrick. 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. For more information, call (520) 508-4445 or email fspr@sanpedroriver.org. Hosted by the Friends of the San Pedro River.