

Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 26, Issue 3

March, 2013

Sky Harbor Updates

Hey, Guides.....do we ever have enough information on Sky Harbor!! Most of us spend a good portion of our time as 'guides' at the airport, and do we ever cease to be amazed on a daily basis at the continual changes? It is an ongoing process to communicate with Sky Harbor regarding how their decisions affect our work as 'meet and greet' staff.

Though it is frustrating at times, we need to remember, that our work represents a microcosm of what Sky Harbor contends with on a daily basis. Dialogue is necessary, but we should not assume that it is ever static. We need to view communication with airport operations as a perpetual necessity to maintaining good relations with Sky Harbor.

Jana has provided us the opportunity to pursue that objective, with the knowledge that this is a dialogue we will engage in on a regular basis as we pursue our objectives as AGA guides. Please attend this meeting in the spirit of cultivating mutually beneficial relations in the future.

~ AGA MARCH MEETING ~

When: TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

Where: Phoenix Sky Harbor

Time: 5:30 p.m. ~ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

6:30 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Meeting at Terminal 3 - Level 3 Sky Harbor - Aviation Meeting Rm.

7:00 ~ Speaker from Sky Harbor Ground Transportation

Please RSVP to Jana Powell: okiejgp@cox.net

AGA President's Notes.....

The year is marching on! It's Spring! I have spent the first two months of this year at the Desert Botanical Garden renewing my Docent status. I have been a docent there for ten years but haven't really been active the last couple of years. Nobody knows everything and we don't always remember what we learned in the first place. Continuing education is requisite in our business.

The DBG is 8 weeks of 4-hour sessions, learning the secrets of survival of our desert plants and how to correctly interpret those facts. This is followed by 4 weeks of 4 hours with a mentor. Mentors are required to take a 3-hour class in mentoring before they take on that task. Docents are then required to make a 4-hour weekly commitment doing tours for guests. WOW! The Garden is a beautiful place and the docents are educated and professional. They love people and are always willing to help. It's a tough course and not everyone succeeds the first time around (sound familiar?). Perhaps mentoring should be explored by AGA.

Please attend our March meeting at the airport. You can reconnect with your fellow guides and even if you don't do airport jobs, most of the guests you encounter at other events have arrived via our airport. I like to be able to answer any questions they might have. It helps your credibility in other areas, too.

And - you won't want to miss Margaret DeMente's home-baked cookies!! We are so lucky to have a member who has a passion for baking! She doesn't want to be reimbursed for her expenses because she just loves baking! My grandsons say they like to go to church with me, but I suspect they really go for the cookies.

Judy Frasier, AGA President 2012-2013

In case you missed it.....from the Arizona Republic

Scottsdale Days Inn The buildings that last housed the Days Inn and Coco's Bakery Restaurant near Scottsdale Fashion Square are set to be demolished next month. The 44-year-old hotel north of the mall closed in early December, while the restaurant, which opened in 1966, closed last summer. When Days Inn and Coco's opened, Fashion Square was a three-story, open-air structure anchored by one department store and a supermarket. Macerich, which owns the properties as well as Scottsdale Fashion Square, has submitted to the city Planning Department an interim site plan for the acreage. It includes demolishing the hotel and restaurant, and installing a driveway providing access to the mall from Highland Avenue. Macerich's senior development manager, said there are not yet any plans to develop the site.

Fashion Square's most recent expansion, completed in late 2009, included a new wing for Barneys New York, H&M and other retailers. Macerich will need to obtain demolition permits from the city to tear down the 167-room hotel and restaurant, in addition to permits to construct the driveway. Macerich also will have to obtain a permit from the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department to proceed with demolition, to find out if there is any asbestos, and if so, remove it, and then they can get the permits. Macerich hopes to begin demolition in early March.

Once demolition is complete, landscape gravel will be installed to create a more aesthetically pleasing area.

Other construction projects are set for the area, including Gray Development Group's Blue Sky apartment complex and Phoenix Motor Co.'s Mercedes-Benz dealership, both on the east side of Scottsdale Road across from the mall.

The Arcadia Citrus Program was founded in 2001 to collect unwanted fruit primarily from Arcadia residents. Since 2003, inmates from Maricopa County jails have helped collect the citrus, most of which goes to jail cafeterias. In that time, the program has diverted millions of pounds of citrus from the landfill and saved thousands of dollars on food for inmates.

One Arcadia resident had been collecting citrus from his neighbors with help from Boy Scouts since 1999, but decided to expand his efforts after Arcadia residents began experiencing problems with roof rats. Roof rats are not indigenous to Arizona. First discovered here in 2002, the rats probably arrived in a moving crate, according to the county's Environmental Services Department. They thrived on Arcadia's citrus, pecan and pomegranate trees. In an effort to curb the wire chewing and burrowing, people started throwing away the rats' food supply in droves.

Inmates in the program have been sentenced to less than a year. Last year, jails received 143 tons of citrus from the program. Since the program was founded, taxpayers have saved \$600,000 in food costs. Best of all, residents rarely see roof rats in Arcadia these days.

Petrified Forest National Park..... keeps growing to protect its fossilized and historical resources. In January, it took the first step toward expanding by 4,265 acres. The Conservation Fund, aided by the National Parks Conservation Association, has purchased McCauley Ranch, a watershed area east of Puerco Pueblo. The property includes petroglyphs, grinding pits and cowboy graffiti.

The Conservation Fund, a non-profit organization based in Virginia, will protect the land until the National Park Service can buy it later this year with help from an anonymous donor and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which uses some of the government's billions of dollars in offshore oil-and-gas royalties for such purposes. This extension of Petrified Forest's boundaries will increase our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Arizona's Painted Desert environment and its archaeological and fossil wonders, according to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis. The ranch had multiple owners. The organizations that bought them out said the sellers did not wish to speak to the media about the sale.

Established in the mid-1960s, the fund technically is authorized by Congress to make \$900 million in conservation purchases each year, but it has almost never had that much money. Congress frequently diverts much of the money to other priorities. The fund has preserved federal, state and local lands nationwide, including city parks in Phoenix. This park expansion will follow others, including a congressionally ordered addition of 125,000 acres in 2004, which more than doubled the park's size to 222,000 acres. That act came with the support of Arizona's delegation. The additions protect dinosaur and plant fossils and cultural remnants.

"The exceptional and irreplaceable prehistoric resources found at Petrified Forest National Park have amazed and captivated Americans for generations," said Mike Ford, the Conservation Fund's Southwest director, "and they should be preserved for the insights they provide into our nation's cultural and ecological

history.” More than 630,000 people visit the park near Holbrook each year. Its fossilized trees are up to 225 million years old.

A prospective tribal casino near Glendale drove the most lobbying in Washington by Arizona groups last year, federal records show. The Tohono O’odham Nation, which hopes to add a Glendale-area casino to its three others outside the Valley, spent at least \$1.2 million lobbying lawmakers. At the same time, the Gila River Indian Community, which operates three casinos of its own, spent nearly \$2.6 million, in part to maintain a restriction that could block the Tohono casino. Among tribes nationwide, the two easily spent the most on casino lobbying, according to an analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan watchdog. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, which operates two casinos and opposes a competitor near Glendale, also spent \$275,000 lobbying, in part, on gaming issues last year.

“Obviously, the Nation would rather not have to spend these funds on lobbying efforts, as there are many pressing needs confronting our community,” the Tohono tribe said in a statement.

“Despite being greatly outspent, the Nation is committed to fighting for its rights under the law, and we are committed to creating thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in new economic impacts for the West Valley.” A spokesperson for the Gila River tribe could not be reached for comment Monday.

The proposed casino has been in dispute since the Tohono tribe first signaled it intended to use annexed land for gaming. That decision was upheld in 2010 by the U.S. Interior Department but has drawn lawsuits and proposed legislation on Capitol Hill since then. Last year, the Tohono tribe was primarily interested in a House bill it opposed that would have effectively blocked its efforts to conduct gaming activities on 54 acres it owns near Glendale. The bill easily passed the House in June but languished in the Senate. With the beginning of a new Congress, the House would have to consider a new bill for the measure to become law.

In contrast to the tribes’ lobbying efforts on the issue, Glendale spent \$70,000 lobbying Washington last year. And “only a tiny percentage of that was spent on that issue,” said Craig Tindall, Glendale’s city attorney. Even so, he said the city’s efforts to stop the casino are bolstered by supportive members of Congress, as well as the state of Arizona and other tribe. In September, a federal appeals court upheld the Interior Department’s decision. Tindall said the city is asking the entire appeals court to reconsider.

While the tribes led Arizona in lobby spending on Capitol Hill, other residents and groups spent at least \$11 million more on other issues

Bragg’s Pie Factory building on Grand and 13th avenues recently received a plaque from the City of Phoenix in honor of the centennial. Because of limited resources, the city could not provide plaques for every building on the Phoenix Historic Property Register. Instead, buildings on the register were selected if they met one of the following criteria:

- The property is located in the downtown district.
- The property is located in a tourism district.
- The property is a city-owned site.
- The property is non-residential and is a previous historical-grant recipient.

To be on the Phoenix Historic Property Register, properties must generally be at least 50 years old and must be significant and retain integrity.

It’s now known as Bragg’s Pie Factory, but Jan Marshall mostly remembers the doughnuts. “Those were the best glazed doughnuts you could ever find, much better than anything around today,” she said. Marshall’s father, Allan Bragg, built the factory in 1946.

When it was first built, people just called the factory Bragg’s Bakery. Workers made baked goods of all kinds, including cakes, bread, pies and doughnuts. The triangle-shaped building had several different uses. The front room, with its floor-to-ceiling glass walls, housed the family-run coffee shop and soda fountain. Bragg’s daughters worked as soda-fountain servers during their summer breaks from high school. Workers, who dressed in white uniforms, hats and aprons, used the majority of the building as a pastry factory. Marshall’s aunt ran a day-old bakery out of the back portion of the building, which Bragg added on a few years after the original construction. People could purchase pies that hadn’t been sold the day before at a discounted rate. “The business was a real family affair,” Marshall said.

Bragg closed the bakery in 1960 when the pressure from unions to raise workers’ wages and competition from the frozen pie industry forced him out of the Phoenix market. Over the next several years, new owners turned the building into an office-furniture showroom, complete with shag carpeting and wood paneling. Local artists Beatrice Moore and Tony Zahn now own the building. Bragg’s Pie Factory, is now one of 83 properties to which the city is giving plaques to recognize historic preservation. The plaques recognize

both the historic structures themselves and the property owners who maintained the buildings over the years.

In celebration of the state's centennial in 2012, Phoenix's Historic Preservation Office brought the idea of installing plaques on historic buildings within the city to Phoenix's Historic Preservation Commission, which is run by volunteers. The commission brought the plan to the City Council for approval. The plaques include the building's name, the year it was built and a statement that the property is on the Phoenix Historic Property Register. Some of the plaques are bronze, and some are aluminum. The bronze plaques were made about 20 years ago, but the city never installed those plaques, and they sat in boxes until recent rediscovery sparked the idea to install them.

Making the aluminum plaques and installing both the aluminum and bronze plaques cost about \$15,000, paid for by historic-preservation bond funds. Of the 83 total plaques, 36 are bronze and 47 are aluminum. The plaques measure 8 inches by 12 inches. Installation began around the end of November. Several plaques have yet to be installed because some property owners contest the date of original construction on the plaques.

Moore and Zahn bought the Bragg's Bakery building in 2004, then spent four years renovating the interior and exterior of the property. The freshly painted and up-to-code building was renamed Bragg's Pie Factory. The two put up partitions and lease out rooms to such tenants as a tattoo parlor and a glass-blowing business. They also use the space to showcase art exhibits. "It's pretty much the same now as it was back then," Marshall said, "except you don't have the big ovens and mixers."

Moore said she and Zahn bought the 15,000-square-foot property because they were worried somebody would demolish it. "Old warehouses in these neighborhoods don't operate as well anymore as warehouses," Moore said. "We've had to be creative to find new uses so the building doesn't get torn down." Moore said if the building were torn down, the unique architecture would be gone forever. The building, which she said was built with an international moderne design popular in the 1940s, features cast concrete walls and steel-bow truss ceilings. What excites Moore the most about the plaque, though, is the pride she hopes it gives to the community. "Maybe other property owners in the neighborhood will pursue the historic preservation of their buildings as well," she said. "People just walking down Grand Avenue might not know how much history there is behind some of the boarded-up buildings. Frankly, a fresh coat of paint and new windows can turn a neighborhood eyesore into a beauty."

Airport News.....

Authorities confiscated 54 guns at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport checkpoints in 2012, the third-highest total in the nation, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

Sky Harbor followed Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which had 95 confiscations, and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, which had 80. Sky Harbor had 44 gun confiscations in 2011. Four guns were confiscated at Tucson International Airport in 2012, down from 16 the year before, while security at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport confiscated three guns last year compared with one in 2011.

TSA checkpoints confiscated 1,525 guns nationally in 2012, up 16 percent from 2011 and 36 percent from 2010, according to the Medill National Security Journalism Initiative, which tracks and analyzes the agency's data. The most-common type of weapon confiscated nationally and at Sky Harbor was a .38-caliber handgun, according to the TSA. Robert Baker, program chair for Global Security and Intelligence Studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, said state gun laws may play a role in the top of the rankings. "Those top-three airports are in states with laws that allow people to carry weapons for personal defense, publicly and on their person," Baker said. In Arizona, those who are 21 and older may carry concealed weapons without a permit. "I don't think there's enough statistics out there to show a direct relationship between rise of confiscations in relation to shootings like Newtown," Baker said. "If more people are legally carrying that means there is more of a likelihood someone would carry it aboard an aircraft." Nico Melendez, a TSA spokesman, agreed, noting that the most-referenced excuse from passengers found with guns at security checkpoints is forgetfulness.

"These are gun owners of America," Melendez said. "I don't think there's cause for concern in terms of aviation security because our employees are there to find these things."

The TSA allows passengers to fly with guns that are unloaded and stored in hard-sided checked baggage. All firearms, including accompanying ammunition and firearm parts, are prohibited in carry-on baggage. When TSA workers find guns and other illegal items on a passenger or in carry-on baggage, the agency has the legal authority to assess civil penalties up to \$10,000, Melendez said. The TSA then calls law enforcement to assess if there was criminal intent.

“The passenger is not really committing a crime unless they are intentionally bringing the gun into a secure area,” said Sgt. Chuck Trapani of the Mesa Police Department, citing a state law against intentionally carrying, possessing or exercising control over a deadly weapon in a secured area of an airport. If there was no criminal intent, a passenger may check the firearm in luggage or give it to a family member or friend who is not flying, Trapani said.

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AZOT).....

Globe-Miami Finds its Wild Side through New Nature-Watch Program. Wildlife thrives in Arizona! In fact, according to information attained by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 900 animal species and 50 million public acres of natural land to explore. To help Arizona communities discover their own watchable wildlife opportunities and promote it to visitors, the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association (AWWTA) has developed a new Go Wild program. Through this technical assistance program, communities learn how to define and enjoy their natural resources while building a unique long-term nature-based tourism identity.

Globe-Miami was the first community to benefit from the program. Over a six-month period, AWWTA and a committed team of state and local representatives worked closely with the community to assess resources, develop ideas for nature tourism, and help implement concrete plans for programming and marketing. Globe-Miami is now ready to take over the full implementation of the plans and will begin to market its newly define tourism product as a visitor destination. Nearly 20 statewide organizations have joined AWWTA to help better promote watchable wildlife opportunities for visitors. AWWTA includes representation from state and federal agencies such as Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Office of Tourism, Arizona State Parks and Bureau of Land Management. Many community-based businesses also have representation in the association. For more information, please visit azwatchablewildlife.org or contact Glenn Schlottman at 602-364-3727 or via email at gschlottman@azot.gov.

AOT has made updates..... to the interactive version of the [Recreation and Cultural Sites Map](#) (also known as the ACERT Map). The updates include statewide museums, cultural centers, observatories, and science centers, along with regional recreation sites such as the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park and the Hassayampa River Preserve.

What is currently displayed on the map is what AOT has in its current tourism product database. If you see locations and destinations missing from the interactive ACERT map, please upload the information to arizonaguide.com so that AOT has the most current destination information and can update the map. The map is accessible from both AOT's consumer website arizonaguide.com and the Arizona Experience website, arizonaexperience.org. For more information please contact Glenn Schlottman at gschlottman@azot.gov or 602-364-3727. <http://www.arizonaexperience.org/live-maps/arizona-recreation-cultural-sites-map>

Scottsdale Tourism Updates....

Scottsdale named "Most Romantic City" in the U.S. just in time for Valentine's Day . . . Scottsdale captured the top spot in Livability.com's Top Ten list of most romantic U.S. cities. The list highlights those small towns and mid-sized cities that set the stage for couples to write their own love story by sharing an exquisite meal, a romantic walk in the park or along the beach, or a night of live entertainment - all in picturesque surroundings. Scottsdale was chosen because, in addition to its unique local flavor, the city offers all the amenities couples look for - independent restaurants with diverse cuisines, a thriving arts and entertainment scene, beautiful scenery and plenty of places to relax. Get more details at <http://livability.com/top-10/top-10-romantic-cities/scottsdale/az>.

At Native Trails visitors witness both history and creativity. The presentations of Native American dances and songs continue on most Thursdays and Saturdays through April 6. The performances, food and jewelry booths are from noon to 1 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater at the Scottsdale Civic Center Park. Renowned hoop dancer Derrick Suwaima Davis, who choreographs the dances, says visitors witness the tradition of tribal dances expressed by artists with an eye on the future. “In our culture we compose songs and it’s very much a living culture,” Davis said. “The songs and dances always capture information of history, and in the performances we’re encouraging a healthy future.”

Now in its 11th year, Davis said one of Native Trails' most-often expressed sentiments is "the message we convey about living a good life and maintaining balance." A number of visitors share that someone in their lineage is a Native American relative. The majority of people who attend come from out of state and classify themselves as winter visitors. Like Valley residents who've never been to the Grand Canyon or any of the other cultural and landmark treasures in the state, Native Trails works to attract those in their own backyard.

New this year are local merchants selling items indigenous to the area, including bread, muffins and soup mixes that combine staple ingredients used by Hopi, Dine and Zuni people. Complementing the colorful costumes and magical dances are stories with humor and context explaining the importance of Valley landmarks and locations to certain tribes. "We do our best to invite the local community and to explain how a particular area or mountain and its resources were viewed and are still viewed by our community," Davis said. The biweekly performances are presented by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and produced by the Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau. Attendance has increased the past two years and 77 percent of people attending rate their experience "fantastic." Ninety-nine percent said they would recommend it to a friend. More info: <http://www.experiencescottsdale.com/event/native-trails/>

ARIZONA'S FLYING PESOS

State Historian Marshall Trimble tells the story of two of Old Arizona's train robbers, Joe George and Grant Wheeler. One of Arizona's zaniest train robberies took place five miles west of Willcox on Jan. 30, 1895, when two cowboys named Joe George and Grant Wheeler decided to raise their station in life by robbing the Southern Pacific Railroad. Since neither had ever heisted a railroad before, there was going to be a degree of "on-the-job training." The wannabe train robbers purchased a box of dynamite at a local business in Willcox under the pretense of going prospecting. They cached their blasting powder and hobbled their horses some seven miles west of town, then walked a couple of miles back to meet the train. West of Willcox, was a long grade that slowed the train enough for the two cowpunchers to jump on board with ease. It didn't take much enticement of the engineer to make him stop the train, especially when he was looking into the muzzle of a Colt .45 revolver.

One of the desperadoes jumped down and uncoupled the passenger cars and then signaled the obliging engineer to pull forward with the mail and baggage cars to where the dynamite was stashed. They broke into the express car and found that the Wells Fargo messenger had slipped out the door and hightailed it back to the passenger cars. Inside the express car were two safes, one a small, fragile-looking lockbox and the other a large, sturdy-looking Wells Fargo safe. Lying nearby on the floor were several sacks full of Mexican silver dollars, also known as "dobe dollars." At the time, they were about the same value as U.S. dollars. Wheeler and George placed a few sticks of dynamite around the two safes, lit the fuses, jumped out the door, and sprawled on the ground, arms covering their heads. The first blast destroyed the door on the small safe, but the prize, the large Wells Fargo safe, remained intact. So they tried again. This time, they added a couple of extra sticks for good measure. Once again, they jumped out of the car and hit the dirt. When the smoke cleared, the big safe reappeared, unblemished.

Finally, the frustrated train robbers piled the rest of their blasting sticks around the safe, and for ballast, packed eight bags of Mexican silver dollars on top. They struck a match to the fuse and lit out for the nearest cover. The resounding blast shook the ground from the Dragoons to Dos Cabezas. The entire express car was blown to splinters. Small pieces of lumber and a thousand silver pesos were flung far and wide. It was something of a miracle that the two outlaws managed to survive the blast. The flying silver missiles that spewed from the exploding express car impregnated everything they hit, including the telegraph poles alongside the track. When the smoke cleared, the two amateurs entered the car and found the durable safe door blown off but only a few dollars tucked inside. The real treasure in the car was the Mexican silver, and it was now scattered all over the countryside. The discouraged pair stuffed a few battered coins in their pockets and rode off into the night. When the train backed into town and gave the alarm, rather than form a posse to go after the outlaws, most of the citizens rushed out to the scene of the crime to search for silver. It was said that for several years afterward, folks were still raking the ground and finding silver dollars. That parcel of land was probably the best manicured piece of desert land this side of Paradise Valley.

~ Story courtesy of Annette Swettish



- Arizona became a state on February 14, 1912, becoming the 48th state and completing the contiguous United States.
- Construction began on the capitol building in 1899 and was completed in 1901. Final costs for construction totaled \$135,000.
-
- Dicit Deus, the state motto, means God enriches in Latin
- The five Cs of Arizona, represented in the Great Seal of the State of Arizona, are copper, climate, cattle, cotton, and citrus.
- Originally the dome was painted to appear like copper, but during the 1970s restoration of the capitol, the mining industry in Arizona donated fifteen tons of copper for the dome, which is treated to prevent tarnishing. That's enough for nearly five million pennies!
- In 1974 the nine-story west wing tower was completed at which time the governor, Jack Williams, and other officials moved out of the old capitol structure.
- The anchor from the USS Arizona is located in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, east of the capitol building.
- The nearly 17 foot tall statue at the pinnacle of the dome is actually a weather vane called Winged Victory.
- She weighs over six hundred pounds and rotates in the wind a full 360 degrees, and was cast from zinc in Ohio and shipped to Arizona when the capitol was built for a total cost of \$160 !!!

Items of interest.....

Growing numbers of geese and ducks are forcing some Valley communities to take action and curb waste buildup on sidewalks and in lakes. In Scottsdale, the problem reached crisis levels last summer, forcing the city to enact a law banning people from feeding the birds.

Eight months later, the ban has led to fewer people feeding the geese at the city's Chaparral Park, which has seen a drop in repeat offenders who were known to throw whole bags of bread into the water. With less temptation from handouts combined with other efforts, the bird population is down, though not significantly.

The intent was never to "arrest 8-year-old girls for feeding ducks," said Mike Rabe, a migratory-game-bird biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "The intent was to stop the people who really abuse the system," he said. Across the Valley and state, the number of waterfowl has risen steadily in recent years, often leading to damaged landscaping and poor water quality from waste buildup, as well as the thousands of bird deaths. He had heard of homeowners associations that outlaw feeding ducks, though he was unaware of other Valley cities that enforce such a law.

Rabe said many birds in the Valley stick around during the summer, lured by promises of handouts and the lush artificial-lake environment. During heat waves, water temperatures in lakes turn very warm, releasing the bacterium that causes botulism. "A lot of ducks end up dying, he said. "I think it's aided and abetted by feeding." In past years, Phoenix has enlisted the help of a federal wildlife-services program to remove some of the geese and ducks at Encanto Park.

Throwing crumbs entices the geese and other birds to nest and dwell in public areas. Park goers often complain of droppings scattered along sidewalks and on public benches.

Scottsdale's ban makes it a misdemeanor to feed wildlife in city parks. There have been no citations issued since the law took effect in June. The city installed "no feeding" signs, and information is passed out to people caught tossing bread. There are plans to erect new, larger educational signs soon..

Civil War in the Southwest Be a part of History at Civil War in the Southwest at Picacho Peak State Park for the annual historic re-enactment of an Arizona Civil War skirmish, Battle of Picacho Pass, and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde at "Civil War in the Southwest". The three re-enactments will take place on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17, 2013. Activities will take place from 10am to 4pm both days but gates will open at 9:30am and no further entry is allowed after 3pm.

Visitors travel from around the country to experience these authentic historic re-enactments complete with lifestyles of the soldiers in the southwest during the 1860s. More than 200 re-enactors come in from many states and will camp at Picacho Peak State Park with their Civil War camping gear. There will also be food and beverage concessions available. Please bring plenty of water, hat, lawn chair and sunscreen. Please note that pets are not permitted to this event.

Civil War battles across America have been well documented and history teachers carefully covered each battle across the East Coast, but few ever learn what was happening in the West during this time. A battle of the American Civil War was a skirmish fought near a rocky spire called Picacho Peak located between Phoenix and Tucson. The new highway follows the old wagon route that passed Picacho in 1862.

In 1860 the New Mexico Territory, which consisted of the lands that would become the states of Arizona and New Mexico, was sparsely populated. It ranked 34th in population out of 43 states and territories with only 83,009 inhabitants. It was 37th in black populations, with just eight whom were free. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the U.S. Government recalled the majority of its troops from the West to build the Union army for the fighting in the east. Henry Hopkins Sibley joined the Confederacy and convinced Jefferson Davis that he would raise an army in Texas and invade New Mexico territories. He proposed that mineral resources would fill the coffers of the Confederacy and fund their massive war effort.

For more information about the re-enactments, please visit AZStateParks.com or call Picacho Peak State Park at (520) 466-3183. This year the Civil War in the Southwest event is being coordinated with financial support from the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation, the Arizona State Parks Foundation and the Arizona Civil War Counsel. Special Event Vehicle Entrance Fee is \$10 per vehicle for up to 4 persons, each additional person is charged \$3 each. A \$3 per person entrance fee applies to pedestrians and bicyclists. There is no charge for children aged 13 and younger. The park is located off I-10, on exit 219; 60 miles south of Phoenix, and 40 miles north of Tucson.

For information about all 27 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 (outside of the Phoenix metro area call toll-free (800) 285-3703), visit the website and online camping reservations at AZStateParks.com. For More Information: <http://www.azstateparks.com>.

Education

Coming up sooner than you think is our Spring day trip. Brenda and Gary have an exciting day planned for you. We will be visiting the Wickenburg area including a tour of the famous Vulture Mine along with other attractions nearby. The proposed date is April 2nd (the Saturday after Easter).

Certification Test If anyone's interested in taking the next test for AGA certification as a tour guide, contact Leslie Ullstrup, Certification Chair, at lullstrup@cox.net.

GET OUTSIDE !!

We're finally warming up *we'll soon be complaining about the heat!!*

Look for Arizona's abundant Spring wildflowers as you hike!!

Boyce Thompson Arboretum <http://www.cals.arizona.edu/bta>

Lost Dutchman State Park <http://www.azstateparks.com/Parks/KODU>

Picacho Peak State Park <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE>

Deer Valley Rock Art Center <http://www.dvrac.asu.edu>

Desert Botanical Gardens <http://www.dbg.org/wildflowers>

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

Phoenix, AZ 85064-5302

Sky Harbor Updates

www.arizonaguides.org

Page 9 – AGA Newsletter ~ March 2013

Websites to visit

All great Southwestern Philosophy is rooted in the ancient Arizodiac – it's your guide to adventure across the Grand Canyon State. So, find your Arizodiac sign below, discover destinations and activities unique to you, and plan a journey all your own. The stars are aligned, after all. More info <http://www.arizodiac.com/>

There are dozens of historic buildings and homes in the downtown Phoenix area. The following are listed on Phoenix's Historic Register, and many of them are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Check back often as we add more homes and, soon, historic businesses. Our tour begins with the oldest homes

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20121210phoenix-historic-homes-prog.html?source=nletter->

The Mystery of the canals....

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/20130223arizona-hanging-canal-mystery.html>

~ SEE YOU AT SKY HARBOR ~

Have you added to your Arizona knowledge in 2013 !!!