

# Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument



## 2016 Annual Report



Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument

<https://friendsoftheaguafrianationalmonument.wildapricot.org/>

[fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org](mailto:fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org)

PO Box 290 Black Canyon City, AZ 85324-0290

Dear Friends,

2016 has been an exciting year for our organization, and a year of changes for the Agua Fria National Monument. In spring of 2016, the Friends were awarded a National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) Every Day Event Grant. We were able to use these funds to put on three major events in the past year: Agua Fria Day, BioBlitz and the Cordes Area Heritage Festival. As you will read below, these events, put on by Friends' committees, were a huge success and made 2016 one of our biggest years for public events in recent memory.

The Friends Board has worked hard this year to improve member benefits and communication. Thanks to our industrious Vice President Chris Caseldine and our new Administrator, Victoria South, we launched a new website, a new member hours tracking and recognition system, and a member directory. We hope to continue to improve these benefits for members in 2017.

In 2016 we also said goodbye to two long-time BLM AFNM staff members, Amanda James, the AFNM Manager, and Casey Addy, the AFNM Range Specialist. Both have been great partners for the Friends, and we wish them the best in their new positions in BLM. The Friends welcomed Dr. Ron Tipton as the new AFNM Manager in September, and we are thrilled to continue our wonderful relationship with our BLM partners.

### *Awards and Recognition*

Update given by Chris Caseldine

The second annual Distinguished Member Award was announced during the Friends Annual Meeting on September 24. The recipient of the 2016 award was **Mike Hoogendyk**. Mike was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, so he was presented with the award during the October Cultural Resource Committee (CRC) meeting. Mike has been a leader within the Friends and has worked tirelessly as a champion for the protection of cultural resources on the monument. Devoting 250 to 300 hours per year, on average, Mike travels across the monument noting the location of archaeological sites and documenting their condition. He also acts as a liaison among the CRC, BLM and other governmental agencies tasked with the management of the monument, and other non-profit groups that are also concerned with the preservation of cultural resources.

If you know a member of the Friends who has performed outstanding service to the Friends or protection of the monument, please nominate them for the 2017 Distinguished Member Award. Nominations are due to Chris Caseldine ([chris@aguafriafriends.org](mailto:chris@aguafriafriends.org)) by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Several members were recognized for reaching a designated level within the Service Hours Recognition Program (SHRP). The SHRP allows members of the Friends to be recognized for their volunteer service. Members recognized for reaching the 100 Hours SHRP level were Larry Craft and Tim Flood. Members recognized for reaching 250 Hours level were Chris Caseldine, Mike Hoogendyk, Tom Leinfelder, and Pete Reilly.

If you are providing volunteer hours as a member of the Friends make sure you are updating your hours on the Track it Forward website, so that you can be recognized for your efforts. If you have questions about keeping track of hours and your current total, contact the Friends Administrator Victoria South at [fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org](mailto:fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org).

## *Cultural Resources Committee*

Update given by Connie Stone

The CRC continued to assist BLM staff in monitoring and protecting archaeological sites, participated in public education and outreach, and conducted cleanup projects at the 1891 School House and the Rollie site. Committee members ranged far and wide to monitor the condition and levels of visitation at sensitive cultural sites. To assist with these efforts, the committee purchased equipment that allows member to better help the BLM with surveys and site documentation. The committee met and shared information about ongoing studies on Perry Mesa with its counterparts from the Friends of the Tonto National Forest. Many members attended the Partnering for Protection workshop hosted by Archaeology Southwest in October. This workshop provided important guidance for interacting with the federal government about the protection of cultural resources.

The CRC was an active participant in several public outreach activities this year. Members took part in the Arizona Archaeology Expo at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and events in coordination with the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Educational events also included a presentation to a troop of Boy Scouts.

The committee played a key role in planning and staging the Cordes Area Heritage Festival, held on October 15, 2016, in partnership with the High Desert Heritage Museum in Cordes Junction, the BLM, Arcosanti, and others. Committee members offered presentations and assisted the public with self-guided tours at four cultural resource sites on the monument. Prior to the festival, the committee made a special effort to inventory and organize the Friends public outreach materials stored at the Black Canyon Heritage Park.

The committee welcomes those who are interested in protecting and learning about the monument's cultural resources. Volunteer activities include opportunities to hike and explore the area's intriguing prehistoric and historic sites. One highlight was a guided tour of remote sites in the Petrified Forest National Park in northern Arizona. Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at the BLM Phoenix District Office at 21605 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix.

## *Natural Resources Committee*

Update given by Tim Flood

Most activities carried out by the Natural Resources Committee this year were conducted by the members of the Water Team.

Team members participated in the popular Wet-Dry mapping of the Agua Fria River and its tributaries. Twenty-three volunteers arose early on June 18, 2016, to map surface water along the Agua Fria River, Little Ash Creek, Badger Springs Wash, and Silver Creek. This marked the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of mapping. Previous years' data were shared with researchers from Arizona State University for presentation at a water conference. To complement the mapping efforts, committee members attended meetings of the Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership (held the first Tuesday of each month at Arcosanti, just north of Cordes Junction). This Partnership discusses significant issues in the watershed including development, the ongoing drought, and groundwater withdrawals. Current plans are aimed at reducing erosion by stabilizing the soils of the watershed. Riparian photo point monitoring continued at the Riverbend.

The Natural Resources Committee also participates in bird surveys on the monument. This was the 5th year of monitoring for the western yellow billed cuckoo, designated as a Threatened species in 2015. From June-August, the Agua Fria River provides nesting habitat for the neotropical migrant cuckoo in Arizona. Members of the committee participated in the biannual general survey of birds in the riparian area in conjunction with the Sonoran chapter of the Audubon Society. Several members of the Water Team surveyed in May for aquatic macroinvertebrates during the first BioBlitz on the Monument. The committee also presented at various outreach events.

In the coming year, these opportunities will continue for members of the Friends. If you are interested in activities of this committee please contact Tim at [TJFlood@att.net](mailto:TJFlood@att.net).

Additionally, the Friends are still searching for a member to chair the Natural Resources Committee. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Striker at [sarah.striker@aguafriafriends.org](mailto:sarah.striker@aguafriafriends.org).

### *Outreach and Recreation Committee Update*

Update given by Victoria South

The Friends have had a busy year taking part in outreach events. In addition to the outstanding Cordes Area Heritage Festival held in October, the Friends have both participated in and put together several outreach events. The purpose of these events is to raise awareness of the beauty and importance of the monument so we all can enjoy it for years to come. A few of our events this year were Wet/Dry, Bio blitz and Agua Fria Day. Each event aims at protecting the monument through awareness building through activities and discussions as well as maintenance projects, such as creating new signs, bat houses and performing trash pickup. This upcoming February 18th we will be having our next Agua Fria Day at Black Canyon Heritage Park, which will feature important discussions about the monument, activities, and hikes. More information about this event and others are located on our website and through the emails we will send throughout the year.

The Outreach and Recreation Committee needs your help. In 2017, the committee is planning Agua Fria Day and several other events. If you enjoy a good party, come help us plan some. Contact Victoria South ([fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org](mailto:fafnmadmin@aguafriafriends.org)) if you are interested in helping with these fun events.

### *Well Wishes*

Our success in 2016 has truly been a team effort. Since I spent several months on maternity leave, Chris, Victoria, and the Friends' Board have taken on quite a lot of extra work to make up for my absence. I want to thank them for their support, and thank all of you for your continued support of the Friends. I hope that you have enjoyed our new offerings in 2016 and we look forward to continuing to work for you and our AFNM in 2017.

Sincerely,

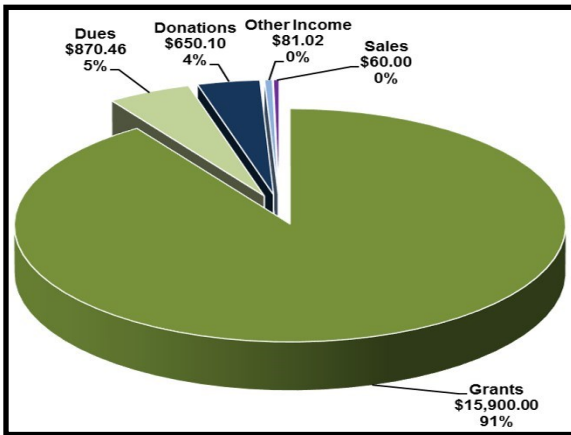
Sarah Striker  
President,  
Friends of the Agua Fria  
National Monument

# MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF THE FRIENDS

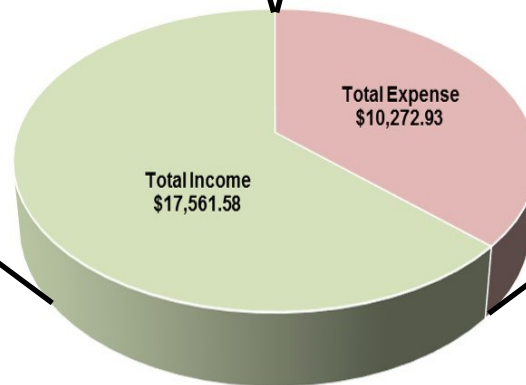
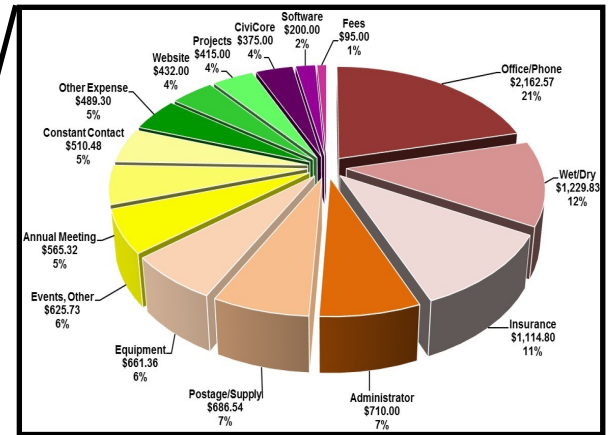
FY 2016  
October 1, 2015—September 30, 2016

## Financial Status

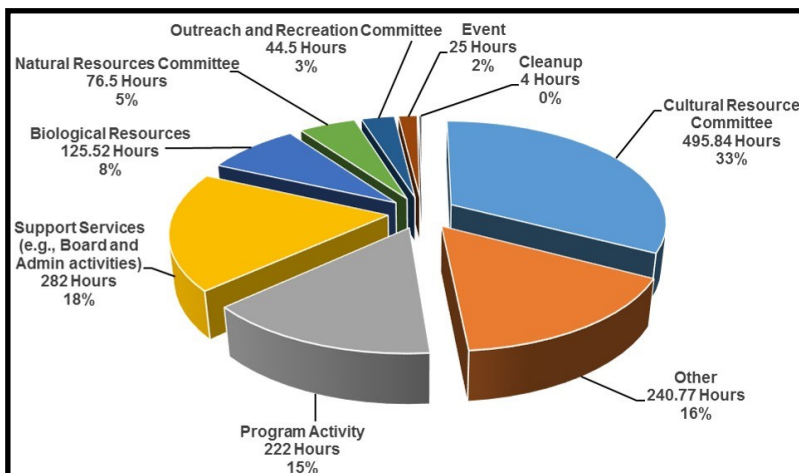
FAFNM ASSETS



FAFNM EXPENSES



Activities



Member Involvement

