



234 N. Central Avenue
Suite 6400
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2187
Phone: 602-506-2930
Fax: 602-506-4692
www.maricopa.gov/parks

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2014
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the department has been involved with during March and April 2014.

From the Office of the Director

Vulture Mountain Recreation Area: The Bureau of Land Management has completed the Wickenburg Area Travel Management Plan and is scheduled to sign the document at a Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce event on Thursday May 22!!! The completion of this plan is a significant milestone in the future development of the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area. The completion of the Travel Management Plan will allow for the final completion of the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area Master Plan and will allow Parks to begin work on the Environmental Assessments needed to complete the Recreation and Public Purposes lease for the day use, campground and OHV staging areas. The Travel Management Plan will become official after a 30 day review period and at this point there are no anticipated issues of concern.

Lake Pleasant Visitor Center: The Bureau of Reclamation has selected 3 finalists for the Design/Build reconstruction project for the Lake Pleasant Visitor Center. This project is jointly funded by Park's funds and Reclamation. The reconstruction project will add approximately 2000 additional square feet to the building, including high quality interpretive displays, more merchandise space and offices for park staff and volunteers. It is anticipated that design could begin as early as October 1 and reconstruction should be underway early next year.

FY 2015 Budget: The FY15 Parks and Recreation Operating and One-time budget is moving forward and we have been given written approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on our budget submission. We continue to wait for the final approval from the Board of Supervisors but at this time, we have been approved for the increases in revenue and expenditure authority for our main operating funds. In addition, significant funding, from the Lake and Enhancement fund balance has been allocated for several major maintenance programs throughout the park system including continuation of our restroom and playground projects as well as group ramada renovations . Finally, for the second year OMB has approved general fund money for several major maintenance projects at Lake Pleasant.

Fee Schedule Update: On May 7, 2014 the County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule as proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Supervisors thanked staff and the Commission for their diligent effort and for the outstanding community input process used to inform the public. The fees will be implemented June 2 and should result in approximately \$300,000 in additional revenue to be used for park operations.

Headquarters Move: Moving the Parks and Recreation Department Headquarters Office to Lake Pleasant is in full swing. Movers will be loading up the offices at 234 N Central in Phoenix on the evening of May 28 and delivering the office contents to our new location on May 29. Employee email addresses will remain the same but phone numbers will change. The new Headquarters Department main phone number will remain (602) 506-2930.

Fire Ban. Maricopa County's regional parks will initiate the annual fire ban. This includes banning the use of all campfire, fire pits and charcoal grills; however, it is still acceptable to use gas/propane grills in designated areas such as the ramada areas, semi-developed and developed camping sites, and along the shoreline at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. If the parks do not receive ample rain during the monsoon season, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department may extend the fire ban to protect the parks resources and ensure visitor safety.

Administration

March and April were extremely busy months. Due to staff shortages in many areas (including 2 positions in Administration), staff has been pitching in and providing coverage at several parks to cover the increase in business. Moving the administrative headquarters is also looming on the horizon and lots of packing and cleaning out of old files has been occurring. Activities for March and April 2014:

Budget Status (through April close):

- **Enhancement Fund (241) – Agency 305:**
 - Enhancement Fund reported revenue 4.95% or \$182,889 over the YTD budget.
 - Enhancement Fund reported expenditures 4.39% or \$150,429 under the YTD operating budget.
- **Lake Fund (240) – Agency 302:**
 - Lake Fund reported revenues 3.33% or \$62,315 under the YTD budget
 - Lake Fund reported operating expenditures under budget at 4.04% or \$77,306
- **Spur Cross (225) – Agency 306:**
 - Spur Cross reported revenues at 1.38% over the YTD budget or \$3,125
 - Spur Cross reported operating expenditures under budget at 12.16% or \$27,016

Finance Program:

- March was the first full month of electronic P-card (Purchase card) implementation. This process allows electronic submission of P-card reconciliations, eliminating the need for park staff to drive to HQ once a month to drop off paperwork.
- Finance staff has started year end procedures with an audit of all existing FY14 Special Use Permits. Staff is checking to ensure payment has been received on any outstanding balances.
- Required end of year audits for Inventory and Capital Assets were conducted. Trades/Trails, Cave Creek, Spur Cross, McDowell, Usery, Estrella, and White Tanks have all been completed.

Contracts:

- **Lake Pleasant Desert Outdoor Center:** As previously reported, and after years of attempting to have our solar system (installed by SOLID for the heating & air conditioning system) become operable, we are now requesting to have SOLID remove the entire solar system and restore the site to its natural condition. In doing so, we have requested that SOLID provide a removal/demolition plan that would include provisions for hazardous waste, performance bond, and general liability insurance, with oversight from the County Risk Management Office. It is anticipated that the removal and site restoration will be completed by the end of August 2014.
- **Estrella Mountain Regional Park:** Negotiations for the Use Management Agreement (UMA) with Estrella Youth Sports for the Sportsfield Complex are continuing; 1) working with County's Real Estate division for their expertise in setting up an escrow account; and 2) participation as a committee member for the Estrella Master Plan update for coordination of activities as proposed in the response to the Invitation to Negotiate for the Sportsfield Complex.
- **Adobe Dam Regional Park:**
 - Road improvements and new drainage culverts at Pinnacle Peak Road are ongoing. The Flood Control (FC) has provided permission for City of Phoenix for the draining of the culvert, which will be crossing land granted to Wet n Wild, Sahuaro Central Railroad and The 500 Club. FC will grant an easement to City of Phoenix, whereas the easement will then become an amendment to each respective concessionaire's agreement.
 - Adobe Dam Regional Park's Special Use Permits processed for May include:
 - May 24 & 25: Wet 'n Wild's annual Memorial Firework Show
 - Potential New Revenue Opportunities at Adobe Dam Regional Park: We have received interest from Horse Rhythm Foundation (HRF) for land use at Adobe through a Use Management Agreement. HRF is a nonprofit organization designed to offer specialized services for veterans, first responders and their families suffering with mental health disorders (PTSD) and physical disabilities due to combat or public safety tragedies. It was established and is fostered by disabled war veterans in an attempt to bridge the gap between conventional healing and whole-being wellness of mind, body and spirit. HRF offers equine-assisted services that recognize, respect, and honor the basic values of our military, law enforcement and firefighters, as well as their families.
- **New Commercial Management Concessions Agreements**
 - One Water Taxi and Tour concession
 - One Fishing Expedition concession
 - Two Food concessions
 - One Flyboarding concession: A new Jetpack Management Plan was initiated and approved to allow jetpack vessels to operate at Lake Pleasant. A Flyboard is a type and brand name of water "jetpack" attached to a personal watercraft (PWC) or vessel which supplies propulsion to drive the FlyBoard through air or water to perform a sport known as flyboarding. A FlyBoard rider stands on a board connected by a long hose to a personal watercraft. Water is forced under pressure to a pair of boots with jet nozzles underneath which provide thrust for the rider to fly up to 30-40 feet in the air or to dive headlong through the water (Wikipedia definition). As a result of the review by Risk Management and the strict enforcement of general liability insurance provisions, only one of the four interested parties will be able to offer this commercial concession at Lake Pleasant at this time.

Human Resources:

New Hires or Transfers:

- Welcome to Grady Vanpopering, Contact Station Assistant at Lake Pleasant (3/31/14)
- Welcome to Laura Jo Boyd, Contact Station Assistant (Temporary) at Lake Pleasant (4/28/14)

Farewells:

- Farewell to Vicki Murrin, Office Assistant Specialized at Lake Pleasant (4/6/14)
- Farewell to Socorro Martinez, Maintenance Worker at Lake Pleasant (4/13/14)
- Farewell to Todd (Marvin) Gunter, Maintenance Worker at Usery (4/19/14)

Open positions and recruitments:

- Contact Station Assistant - Temporary (Lake Pleasant) – Interviews pending.
- General Maintenance Worker (Lake Pleasant) – Open for recruitment.
- General Maintenance Worker (Usery) – Pending Interviews.
- HR Specialist (Temp/Administration) – Hire pending
- Administrative Operations Specialist (Administration) - Hire Pending
- Navigational Aide Technician (Lake Pleasant) – Interviews scheduled
- Interpretive Ranger (McDowell) – Request to open for recruitment.
- Office Assistant Specialized (Lake Pleasant) – Interviews Pending

Information Technology:

- As of May 8th, all computer replacements and upgrades to Windows 7 have been completed for this year.

Souvenir Fund:

- Our annual product line review is underway with selection of new products for FY15 and removal of older/outdated FY14 products. Products will also be categorized into educational (books, games), recreational (hiking sticks, compasses), convenience (soda, candy), and souvenir items (shirts, postcards). The goal is to have no less than ½ the product line fall into educational and recreational categories.
- The program is also moving towards improved efficiencies with ordering and record keeping. Currently, there are multiple forms to keep updated. The new process will only require the product line in the POS be updated and should eliminate administrative time by 25%.
- Other significant changes to this program are underway for FY15. Revisions to the category system used in the Point of Sale system will have all products categorized by vendor rather than type, allowing for direct ordering from the POS as well as making the barcode book easier to navigate. In order to do this, all of the approximate 2,000 products have to be reviewed and updated.

Volunteer Program:

- The March Volunteer event took place on March 22nd at Lake Pleasant. A total of 30 volunteers assisted in cleaning up the shoreline area near the 10 lane boat ramp. *Hands On Greater Phoenix* lent the department 30 trash grabbers for the day and the Conservation Alliance provided snacks and water.
- The hosts are starting to leave the parks to head back to their home states. They will all be gone by the end of April and many have made commitments to return in the fall.
- An Earth Day Trail Maintenance event took place on April 26th near Lake Pleasant. A total of 50 volunteers assisted in cleaning up the segment as well as maintaining a portion of the trail. Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation and the Conservation Alliance collaborated to assist in making this event a success. Additionally, Arizona Trail Foundation provided trail tools and Arizona Forward helped get the word out to 600 of their members. Trail Manager, John Rose, was in attendance and helped guide the more advanced trail volunteers in constructing a part of the trail.
- Also on April 26th, 30 volunteers participated in a shoreline cleanup in conjunction with *Hands On Greater Phoenix's* Serve-A-Thon week. The organization provided tools, bags, and snacks for the day. Although the event was rained out, the volunteers worked hard in the unusually cold weather for a few hours in the North Lake Pleasant area.
- Volunteer Hours for January and February 2014:

	March 2014	April 2014
Total Dept. Hours	11,225	8,488
Financial Savings	\$248,513	\$187,929
YTD Hours	77,254	94,230
YTD Savings	\$1,710,399	\$2,086,257
Prev. Year Month Total Hours	11,496	9,086
Prev. Year YTD Hours	69,027	78,113
Prev. Year Financial Savings	\$ 1,515,836	\$ 1,715,371

Planning and Development (Engineering) Highlights as of May 12

- **White Tank - Water Supply System Upgrade Project:** This project will update and improve the potable well and booster pump station that services both the park and the library. The job is complete; we are in the process to get the final permit clearance from Maricopa County.
- **White Tank - RV Dump Station Project:** This project will construct a new waste disposal (dump) station for camper and recreational vehicle (RV) use. The job is complete and was opened for public use on March 21, 2014.
- **Estrella Master Plan:** A kick-off meeting was held April 10, 2014. The overall process should take approximately 18 months.
- **Vulture Mountain Update:** Staff is continuing to process the Hassayampa River Preserve Action Plan with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which will set the timeline for transfer of the Preserve property to Parks. Staff is continuing correspondence with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad regarding permission for a trail crossing underneath one of BNSF's trestle-bridges.
- **System Wide:** The refurbishment of all restrooms (~75), for all the parks began in January. The project is expected to take four years and cost ~\$3.5 million. With the help of two "Job Order Contracts" (JOC) contractors, staff is working to standardize interior and exterior finishes and hardware improvements throughout the park system.

All seven restrooms at Cave Creek are complete. New sidewalk near the day-use area playground, required for ADA compliance, was being finished the week of May 12th.

Two restrooms (RR) are complete at McDowell. (RR #10 (family campground) and RR for Area 3 (North Trail))

Two restrooms are complete at Usery. (Wind Cave RR and RR #10 (day use area))

Three restrooms are under construction at White Tank. (Group Campground, #9 and #11). Also working on septic issues at #3 and #9. Plan to work on two more RRs (Family Campground and Youth Campground) before the end of the fiscal year.

One restroom, the 10-Lane RR at Lake Pleasant, is complete. The hand dryer upgrade project is complete, but due to problems with skylights and motion sensors, several dryers will be switched out to RRs at mountain parks without skylights.

New playgrounds have been installed at Cave Creek, Estrella, McDowell, Usery and White Tank Parks. The contractor is completing "clean-up" work, including demolition of selected structures and the relocating selected shade sail structures.
- **Maricopa Trail:** Began the construction of 3.1 miles of new trail on Segment 35, from the southeast corner of White Tank Park down to Jackrabbit Trail and the White Tank 3 Outfall Channel. Included with this effort was volunteer assistance from the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors during National Surveyor's Week and construction by the Case New Holland Proving Grounds. Maintenance completed by JOC on 5.1 miles of trail, including installation of 35 signs in various locations. Continued coordination and route planning with the C.A.P., SRP, Peoria, Avondale, Goodyear, Phoenix, Flood Control District, MCDOT, ADOT and the Tonto National Forest. Acquired two acres of land easement from the Arizona State Land Department for new trail construction and applied for additional right of way.
- **Trades Crew:** Trades Crew staff has been assisting with the contractor projects at White Tank Park. The Trades Crew completed the septic system project and interior lighting maintenance for the Operations Building at Lake Pleasant.
- **Trails Crew:** The Trails Crew has been working with the Southwest Conservation Corp (SCC) on trail maintenance and construction at the Lake. The new Yavapai Point Trail, with beautiful views of the lake, is nearly complete.

Superintendent Reports

Cave Creek Regional Park:

- In March, the park hosted 27 interpretive programs with 465 participants attending, which included 114 repeat attendees. Three (3) docent programs were offered with 33 attendees. The interpretive ranger also conducted two *Sonoran Desert Flora & Fauna* outreach programs.
- This month, the second annual *Super Serpent Saturday* was the highlighted program with 195 attendees. Snakes were on display and included a variety of educational presentations about these fascinating creatures.
- The Family Campground and Group Campground continued to be at full capacity throughout the month with campers also utilizing our overflow area.
- In April, the park hosted 17 interpretive programs with 179 participants attending, which included 41 repeat attendees. One (1) docent program was offered with 8 attendees. The interpretive ranger also conducted two *Archery 101* outreach programs.
- This month, *Feeding Frenzy* was the highlighted program with 39 attendees. This is a monthly program which occurs the first Saturday of each month. The park visitors enjoy watching the interpretive ranger feed our critters.

Desert Outdoor Center:

- Lake Pleasant Aquatics and Nature Camp update: Marketing email to troop leaders in the three districts surrounding Lake Pleasant has gone out in hopes of increasing attendance this summer. Camp staff interviews are completed and hiring is currently occurring. Swim tests for all campers and staff training will occur later in May. Camp this year will be four weeks (Mon-Thurs) in June.
- The DOC calendar is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ booked with a variety of events. The 2014-15 school year calendar is almost filled since teachers are planning ahead to schedule their desired field trip dates. In addition, five weddings have booked for fall 2014/spring 2015. Four aquatics training events are scheduled in cooperation with Cabela's, and two stargazing gatherings will be held.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park:

- In March and April, park staff and volunteers performed 34 programs for 470 attendees. Two private group outreach events reaching 50 people were also conducted by the interpretive ranger. The ranger assisted at the DOC and the Maricopa County Parks booth at the AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Expo held at the Ben Avery Shooting Range.
- The two-day *Tres Rios Nature Festival* took place in March. It is estimated that approximately 1,500 people visited the park booth over the weekend. The new Gila Monster taxidermy exhibit was taken to the Nature Festival, generating much interest at the park's booth. It is now on permanent display at the Estrella Nature Center.
- April highlights include the *Stargazing for Everyone* program on April 12th, with 110 people in attendance, and the Easter Egg craft program with outreach to 130 children. In addition, the interpretive ranger assisted with the CSI program at Utery Park and attended a two day training session with the AZ Game & Fish Department.
- Special events were quite popular this spring. March started off with the *Hike for the Homeless* in which 156 hikers enjoyed the park's trails and mountain scenery. Scout Troop 3 who hosts Camp Diagalus each year, conducted a community service outing with 12 scouts working in the park. The MBAA Mountain Bike Race was successful for over 300 registered bike riders. The ACTHA Horse Riding Group had a Handling and Challenge ride for 50 riders. Park staff and 12 MBAA Friends had a clean-up day in the park and on the Competitive Track. The annual *Whippet Dog Run* for around 30 dogs and handlers was also a hit for club members and park visitors.
- In April, the Soul Brothers Motor Cycle Club (first timers at Estrella Park) reserved the Super Ramada for a rally for enthusiasts to view 30 high-end show motorcycles. The group expected 1,500 people and 4,000 riders and bikes showed up.
- Saturday, April 19th was busy with many ramada reservations and picnics. *Nick's Epic 5K Run*, a charity event conducted by students as part of a class assignment, had 150 runners and spectators in attendance.

- With Easter weekend later in the season than in past years, revenue was down from last year. However, visitors who did come to the park on the warm and beautiful day had an enjoyable time, especially the children playing on the new playground.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

- Lake Pleasant offered 38 interpretive programs to the exuberating experience of 446 participants during the months of March and April. Highlights of the two months included *Fun with Petroglyphs*, *Desert Gatherings*, *Shoreline Fishing*, *Monsoon Mayhem* (in collaboration with Environmental Services for monsoon safety and storm water awareness), *Looking for Desert Flowers Hike* and the *Pleasant Paddlers* program to Blue Heron Island.
- The park held their annual *Dam Good Run* event in March. Approximately 100 people were in attendance or participated in the festivities. We received a lot of positive feedback from participants, as they were happy to receive a special picture at the finish line to commemorate their experience and enjoyed the interpretive signage placed along the event route to highlight the history of the park and the dam.
- *Paddfest* was another wonderful success this year. Park patrons were delighted to see anything and everything paddle related. Event-goers were able to try out different paddles and ask questions to experts in the field. Over 500 participants arrived this year to partake in the festivities. For a more in depth look at the event, please see this wonderful *YouTube* posting created by one of the participants: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vyX-UsWcyc>.
- In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, Lake Pleasant hosted the annual *Catch A Special Thrill (C.A.S.T) for Kids* event for roughly 500 participants and volunteers. 55 fishermen donated their time to take out disadvantaged, disabled, and underprivileged youth out for a day of fun to fish on the lake and partake in other fun activities.
- The Agua Fria river arm has been opened early again due to the bald eagle nesting season being unsuccessful for the fourth year in a row. The Arizona Game & Fish is conducting research on the failed nesting site to establish an explanation as to why the egg did not hatch, but early indicators show the nesting location (receiving more sun) and warmer weather may be the likely reasons for the failure. The eagle closure was lifted on April 2.
- Park staff is currently working with members of the management team and the project manager on several key projects at the park to include the 10 Lane Restroom Renovations, Bypass gate installation, hand dryer installation, water valve assessment/installation/repairs, Visitor Center renovation, and repairs to the Wild Burro ET bed. Special thanks to everyone for their assistance.
- The park supervisor received a partial scholarship through the APRA Fellowship to attend the Revenue Management School at Oglebay. The supervisor was excited for the opportunity to attend the school/training, and can't wait to implement the strategies learned at the park level.
- The park welcomes Chris Simpson, administrative assistant from Cave Creek. Chris is on a special work assignment to help serve as the interim Administrative Supervisor for the park.
- A special *thank you* goes out to the administrative assistants and maintenance staffs from Estrella and Cave Creek and to the volunteer coordinator which have all provided assistance during our limited staffing times. Your help is greatly appreciated.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- This Arizona spring was just about perfect weather compared to the very harsh weather in most of the country. As a result, the occupancy in the Family Campground was 99% full in March of 2014 with no camp site ever open for more than one consecutive night in March. The separate tent area was also very busy. McDowell Park has 6 reservable tent sites which were occupied 90% of the nights in March.
- In March, the park hosted the *Mountain to Fountain 15K* run from the park into Fountain Hills ending at Fountain Park with more than 900 runners participating.
- The 3rd annual *Fat Tire 40* was held and this event includes one lap of the perimeter trails of the park. This year's addition of the Escondido Trail increased the mileage to just over 45 miles and had 238 participants.
- On the last weekend of March, the park hosted the last major event of the spring season. The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona brought its MARC relay race back for a second year. This team event was staged in the Four Peaks Staging Area and promotes great comrade among all the team members and participants.

- The department approved a new gate at the northwest corner of the park to facilitate access to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The gate was constructed by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and with assistance from park staff the gate, was installed before the end of the month.
- A new gate was installed at Granite Tank where the Pemberton and Delsie Trails intersect. This gate provides access to the Maricopa Trail where it will enter the park.
- The park's maintenance staff completed a new, larger pond behind the Visitor Center; providing a consistent water source to wildlife which is particularly important during the hot dry summer months. They also added a fountain in the plaza on the south side of the Visitor Center. This additional water source is both a tranquil location for park visitors and a separate water source for birds and smaller animals frightened away from the pond.
- Work began on remodeling the Visitor Center's animal exhibits and display area. This project is expected to be complete in the next 30 days.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park:

- During the month of March, San Tan provided 23 interpretive programs with over 700 program participants. The highlight program for the month was *Moonlight Hike* which attracted 83 participants alone.
- In addition to our monthly interpretive programs, San Tan also hosted a BIG event. *Find Me Green Lucky Charms*, our sixth annual St. Patrick's Day event was enjoyed by over 223 participants. Guests were treated to a plethora of fun stations such as face painting, desert trivia, bean bag toss, obstacle course, crafts, coloring, pony rides, a petting zoo and so much more. This event is a great way to connect with the community and offer opportunities for them to connect with the park.
- During the month of April, San Tan provided 28 interpretive programs with 1,015 program participants. The highlight program for the month was *Raptors!* hosted by Ranger Tish and Liberty Wildlife. This program was designed for homeschoolers and open to all other visitors. The program centered on physiology, adaptations and conservation and was attended by 135 participants.
- *Eggstravaganza*, our seventh annual Easter event, attracted 221 participants. Visitors were treated to a variety of fun stations such as face painting, bean bag toss, obstacle course, crafts, coloring, pony rides, and so much more. The big draw was the egg hunt consisting of over 500 eggs.
- We have had two Eagle Scout projects completed during the month. Both projects consisted of closing illegal trails in order to protect park resources and help keep our park visitors safe. Both Eagle Scout projects combined contributed 150 volunteer hours for the month.
- The park supervisor and the interpretive ranger had several opportunities to work with News Channel 12 on their Arizona Friday Midday segment to help promote park programs at San Tan Mountain Regional Park. Souvenir items, park programs, hiker safety, dog safety, wildflowers and the department were all highlighted.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area:

- The Park hosted 17 interpretive programs in March with 305 participants attending, along with seven docent programs with 79 participants.
- The highlighted program for the month was the *Wild Flower Walk*. These three-hour strolls along the Spur Cross and Tortuga Trails showcases some of the wildflowers found in the park. Although it was not the best wildflower season, the ranger still had 77 attendees for the 5 scheduled programs.
- On March 22nd, the fifth annual *Archeology Expo* was held. Park staff, as well as the Arizona Archaeology Society and Cave Creek Museum, had a fun filled day with hikes to archaeological sites, pottery and flint-knapping demonstrations, various booths and hands-on children activities scheduled for our parks enthusiast.
- The Park hosted 15 interpretive programs in April with 95 participants attending, along with five docent programs with 44 participants. The highlighted programs for the month: *Wild Flower Walk* and *Sunset Walk* both programs had 19 participating.
- The staff decided to pilot a souvenir sales venture at the conservation area and it has been a great success and extremely popular with our visitors. Since the souvenir program started in March, we have sold 220 adult hats, 17 children hats, 7 specialty shirts, 40 Spur Cross/Cave Creek Logo shirts, 5 children shirts and 71 water bottles.

Usery Mountain Regional Park:

- The park offered 18 interpretive ranger programs in March with 1,301 participants and 29 docent lead programs with 611 participants. The *Hiker's Choice Full Moon Hike and Campfire* (366) continues to be the most popular program we offer.
- How dangerous are rattlesnakes? What should you do if you encounter one? How do they survive and thrive in the wild? Ranger B answered these questions and shared some amazing facts about rattlesnakes to 157 guests in his one hour *All About Rattlesnakes* brown bag presentation.
- The Buckhorn Campground was at full capacity at 99.5% during the month of March.
- The park received and installed a memorial bench donation which was placed at the pond.
- Usery Park offered 17 interpretive ranger programs in April with 969 participants and 14 docent lead programs with 278 participants. The *Desert Mythbusters* evening brown-bag lecture had 120 participants followed by an *Animal Flashlight Walk* with 141 participants.
- The *Spring FITA Field Archery Tournament* was held at the archery range. 14 archers from ages 7 to over 70 braved the wind, rain, and even hail to complete the challenge.
- The 2nd annual *Hike for Hunger* event was held with 86 participants. Participants of all ages hit the trails hiking distances between 1 and 5 miles despite the windy and rainy conditions. The event raised money for the United Food Bank and was sponsored by the Mesa Baseline Rotary Club.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park:

- In March and April, park staff and volunteers presented 37 programs with attendance totaling 1,588 people. In addition, the interpretive ranger also conducted several school outreach programs.
- Several special events were held this spring. Of special note, the annual Aravaipa Mesquite Canyon Trail Run tested the endurance of 362 racers across rugged terrain in the White Tank Mountains. Racers could choose different distances between 5 and 50 miles. This year's event was attended by 70 more runners than last year.
- With the completion of the RV dump station and the addition of electrical and water hookups in March, camping revenues have more than doubled this year.
- As with most years, March as a whole was White Tank Park's busiest month. In April, Easter was the busiest day of the month. However, due to the warm temperatures and to Easter occurring so late in the month, the day was not as busy as in previous years.
- During the first week of March, park staff said thank you to the park's camp hosts and community volunteers with a Host Appreciation Lunch in the Group Campground. A good time was had by all.
-