

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO. 16

MAY  
2006



Mabel

Norman

Emily

**FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
PIG SANCTUARY**

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary  
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road  
Marana, AZ 85653**

May 1, 2006

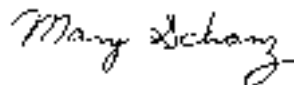
Dear Supporter,

In the past I have talked about our yearly anniversary in our May issue. This year is a milestone. June 10th will mark FIVE years since the gates of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary opened and Claire and Popeye called Ironwood home. Please see my anniversary article with pictures of our first pigs as they are now, five years later. Their history and stories are all still with me. The tiny muddy pens, the tearful child, the adults whose lives have fallen apart and the pig is now a part of their history, the strays who are wandering the streets or desert, the animal control pens, the plush lives they led in a fancy home and yard but now their people can't or won't keep them.

This is who they are and how and why they came to us. We are so glad we are here to offer them the refuge they need when their lives change and they have no place to call home. Many of them are now so settled with us that I could not or would not think of moving them again. This is their home and the friends they have made and herds they have formed are now permanent. We are now confining our adoptions, with few exceptions, to new arrivals. It makes it more difficult to make a good match for those interested in adoption, but with patience we most often find a match, and since our main interest is the welfare of our pigs, we choose not to disrupt the lives of those who have been with us for an extended time. There are still many who are recent arrivals who need a home.

We are now getting our fields ready for the hot summer ahead and our permanent herds are moving out of their shelters and into their favorite wallow, shade ramada, or under the tree where they have hung out for many seasons. The carpets are down and in many cases new shade cloth has been put up or repaired. The hot AZ desert is not an ideal home for these animals with a tropical history who like to forage and nest, but this is where they are so we do all we can to make them happy and comfortable.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz  
President

PS: Your support has made these past five years possible and your continued support will make the next five years possible and keep the lives of our pigs from being disrupted again. Thank You!



**Evelyn**

# Peggy & Gracie

I first met “Peggy” the Pot Belly Pig, in early June 2005. I saw a group of children petting some animals at a nearby store. There were goats, sheep, lambs, pigs, chickens and roosters penned up in small stalls. I noticed the children were surrounded by flies, which were tangled in their hair and biting their arms, face, and eyes. In the corners of the pigpens, I saw dark pools of thick, gooey feces mixed with urine and mud, blanketed under black layers of buzzing nastiness. Each time a child would approach an animal pen, a dark cloud of filth would expand up into the air and surround them.

“Peggy” was in one of these filthy pens. She was laying on hard bare dirt ground, without a shed, lifelessly succumbing to the flies that were feasting on her ears, eyes, and nostrils. Her face was only inches away from a big clump of her wet feces. Her



Peggy

hooves were so overgrown, her toes crossed over each other. She was so obese, her eyes were closed. Her water pail was so rancid, it was lined with thick green slime. She was immobile, as if she had given up on life. “Gracie”, another potbelly pig, was also penned in a stall just across from “Peggy”. Like “Peggy”, “Gracie” was obese, and her hooves overgrown. When she moved, her hooves made clicking sounds.

I found the caregivers and asked if I could adopt or buy the pigs. They said no. I asked if they could trim the overgrown hooves, and they said they would, but a few weeks later, the hooves were still overgrown. I asked if they would clean the pigpens to reduce the stench and flies, but they said, “They’re animals, what do you expect?”. I offered to pay someone to “muck” out the pens, or get in there myself to do it, and

they said “Why would you want to do something like that?”. I said the reason was that the flies were unhealthy for the children, and I felt

sorry for the animals. They just looked at me, and said, “Go ahead and muck out the pens if you want”. So, I bought rubber boots and plastic pants. When I returned to clean the pens, they said no, I couldn’t do this after all, because their liability insurance wouldn’t cover me. I asked if they would put some straw in the pig pens to



soak up the urine, and give pigs something to lay on, and they said “No, straw is too expensive”.

One freezing morning in January 2006, I handed the caregivers \$50 to build a wooden shed with straw inside, for “Peggy”. They declined the money, but said they’d take care of it. A month later, “Peggy” was still laying on hard dirt ground, fully exposed to the freezing wind. I put my hand on “Peggy’s” icy back, and I felt her shivering. I asked the caregivers about the pig shed they promised to build, and they said I could buy the pigs now!! I was so happy! We quickly agreed on a price. My husband asked where was I going to put the pigs, and I

# Peggy & Gracie Cont.

told him not to worry. But, I was really worried! I had to repeat to myself over and over again, “The perfect home will come to the pigs”.

And, it did!! I called Ben Watkins and Mary Schanz of the Ironwood Sanctuary in Marana, AZ, and they in turn, contacted Joe and Kathy North, a very nice couple who live in my area, who would take good care of the pigs. Joe said he had offered to pay for igloo shelters for the pot bellied pigs, but they wouldn't let him.

Then, with the charm of a southern gentleman, Joe said, “The most important thing now is to get them pigs outta there!”.

The cavalry was coming to save the pigs!! Early the next day, Joe and Kathy showed up at the pigpens. Joe moved the pigs into two large doggie carriers, loaded the carriers into his shiny Cadillac SUV, and drove the pigs to their new warm shelter.

On March 10, 2006, the weather dropped to below freezing, and it

snowed off and on all night and the next day. But, Joe said “Peggy” and “Gracie” were now safe, cozy and warm in their new heated shelters, laying on thick layers of straw and blankets, eating healthy fruits and vegetables!!

A million thanks to Ironwood Sanctuary and Joe and Kathy North, for their incredible caring and generosity!

--- P. O'Rourke

## COVER

**Norman** came to Ironwood on Sept 4, 2002. Poor Norman, who does not see well, was wandering the streets of Phoenix until a nice lady took him in, but only briefly. She was soon evicted from her home, so Norman had to go also. Norman is always up talking to us at feeding time. Assisted living would not be the same without his singsong voice. **Emily** arrived April 10, 2002 with Whitey, our pygmy goat. Most of you who have visited have met Whitey. Emily was fallout from a divorce, which is often the reason why we have pigs come to live with us. She is like a little bulldog and never hesitates to stand up for herself even though she is quite small. **Mabel** arrived on March 1, 2003 with her friends Swiney and

Grunt. Their people had to relocate because of a job change so they all came to us. Swiney passed away and Grunt lives in one of our pens now because of his disabilities, so Mabel has made friends with Norman, Emily and Bubba, not pictured. Until recently, Mabel, who is now 14 years old, was always ready to start a fight with any one of us who messed with her friends.



## Employee Needed

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is seeking a full time employee to work at our Marana facility assisting in the care of the 340 pot bellied pigs we have there. There are live in accommodations available for one person and a small companion animal.

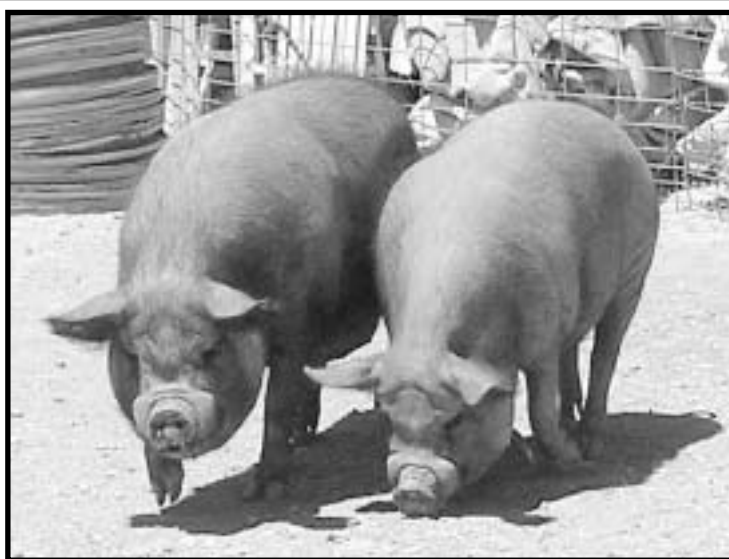
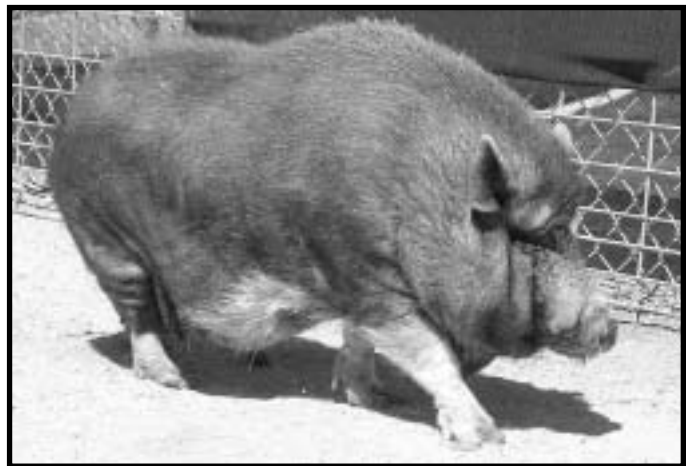
Work at the sanctuary is hard but rewarding when you see all the contented pigs enjoying their morning feed and hay. The job is outdoors, requiring walking over 10 acres all day feeding, doing medical rounds and refreshing water pools and wallows throughout the day. Ability to work in the hot Arizona sun a must.

# Meet Our Newcomers



**Wilma and Betty** were adopted from Ironwood in July of 2005. They were two baby sisters who were part of a rescue of several pigs from Kingman, AZ. They were born in January of 2005. They were adopted by a very nice man who took good care of them. He has recently been stricken with a very serious illness, so we had to take Wilma and Betty back to Ironwood. They are such sweet little girls but on the shy side. They miss their “dad” and would very much like to go home again where they can be loved like they were before. They are very bonded to one another, so they could only go home as a pair.

The Pima County Sheriff found **Olivia** wandering the streets of Southwest Tucson. They called the Humane Animal Rescue Team and she was picked up by a member and taken to the Humane Society. Since she was older and not very social, they felt her chances to be adopted were not very good, so they made a call to Ironwood. Olivia has made a good adjustment at Ironwood and will soon be living in one of our assisted living fields where she will be living with other pigs and making new friends. Olivia is stepping out in this picture, but we will see to it that she does not end up on the streets and get picked up by the Sheriff again!



**Wilbur and Pinky** “The Boys” are Yucatan Mini Pigs, but as you can see from the pictures, they are not so mini. Seems like we have heard this claim before. They are the counterparts to our Chandler at the Annex who was a University Medical Center research pig. They came to us from the Phoenix Zoo, so their history is not so stormy, but never the less they were in need of a home since they had been in their petting zoo when they grew up. They are very mischievous and always looking to see what they can push around next. They will rub against you and flop over for a belly rub one minute and the next they might try to test the waters and challenge you. Just like teenage boys. We let them out to roam daily so they can work off some of their young energy. They would love to have a new home but they need plenty of space to stretch their legs.

# Ironwood Celebrates

**S**hown here are many of our first pigs five years later. Many of you are making this journey with us and you may recognize many of them from issues past.



**Claire**

June 10, 2001 we officially opened the doors of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Claire and Popeye arrived that evening. Then on June 11th Misty and Tully came, June



**Popeye**

12th Owen and Taylor, June 14th a litter of babies, June 15th Oreo came to our home

and June 30th Blossom arrived along with Eddie and Flapjack. That rounded out our first month and filled the 8 pens we had constructed at that time, and the overflow went to our home and introduced me to my dear beloved Oreo.

Soon thereafter Pearl, Princess, Bubba, Mr. Pibb, Arnold, Benjamin and Oliver, Desiree, Pammy, Corky and so



**Misty**

many others followed them. We built more pens and they were soon full, and we



**Tully**



**Owen**

anxiously awaited the completion of our large 6-acre field. With a sigh of relief, our field was completed in early Oct. 2001 and we began the hard process of releasing our pigs out of the pens and into the fields. This is never an easy task since pigs sometimes fight furiously for their position in the herd, so these first few days were a prelude of what was to come and the beginning of



**Eddie**

subdividing our new large field to suit the capabilities and ages of our new family.

# Five Years

Since those early days in 2001 so much has changed. Our facility has grown and we now



Taylor

have a good well and storage for 40,000 gals of water. We hope to have power by this summer, and our staff continues to grow to meet the growing needs of our pigs. A large herd of pigs arrived from Pigs\*A\*Lot in January of 2002 as well as a small herd of less able pigs from there. These became our East and West fields. Ben, Donna, and I had

much and as Pigs\*A\*Lot grew to overflowing and more calls came in to take pigs we decided the only solution was for us to open another sanctuary. Of course this was not the solution nor will it ever be. The only solution is to stop the breeding, which we try to do every time we have the



Pammy

opportunity. The years passed and more homeless pigs arrived and more field divisions were made. Nineteen arrived from a sanctuary near Phoenix and 7 from a large Florida rescue. In May of 2003 we purchased the Annex property, previously



Desiree

volunteered there and some of those pigs, like my Wilma, were the reason Ironwood became a reality. I had come to love some of the pigs so

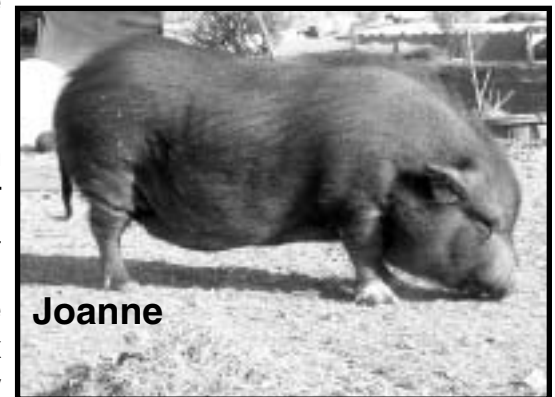
Pigs\*A\*Lot, where we had our beginnings, and our family grew by nearly 90 pigs. In July of 2004 St. Matilda's was unable to continue and our

family grew by 46, and in September of 2004 the final 30 pigs from Pigs\*A\*Lot were back home at our Annex. We now have 440 pigs living at our



Harley

two facilities. We continue to take in more pigs as we find homes for others and are making every effort to keep our numbers stable. In all, over these five years, well over 600 pigs have been a part of Ironwood. Many have gone on to new homes and others have lived out their lives with us. We have been happy and fortunate to provide them a safe nurturing environment for



Joanne

the rest of their journey. Our lives are now co-mingled and we are making the journey together.

--- Mary

# Hot Weather Is Here!

**T**his Spring as I was thinking of what we were going to include in our May 2006 newsletter, it was cold and rainy here in Arizona. I thought what a difference May would bring with dry weather and temperatures around 100 degrees. Our summer season begins in April with June being the hottest month. It is critical that our pigs, during these hot months, have enough shade, wallows, pools and fresh water. Every day during hot weather our pigs' water is refreshed throughout



**One of Ironwood's Many Shade Ramadas**  
the day.

Even in cooler climates the sun can be very hot, particularly to a black pig. So it is important to provide plenty of water, shade, and shelter for your pigs and all your other creatures. Even though you might see a horse or a goat standing around in the sun on a hot summer day, it is still important that they have the option to seek shade and shelter. By the way, you will never see a pig laying in the sun on a hot day. Maybe they are smarter!

--- Ben



Drawing donated by Fred Falk: falcon7@nethere.com

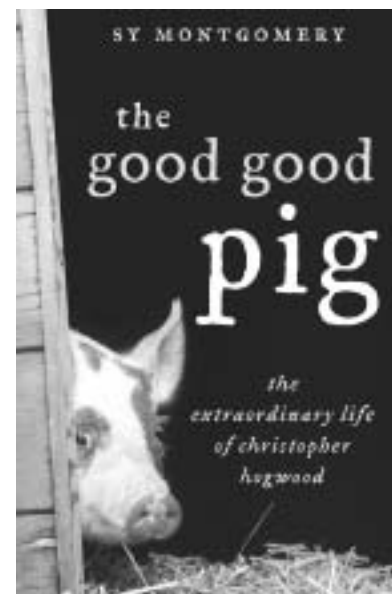
**All your critters need shade, shelter, and plenty of water all year!!**

## Reading, Signing, and Pigs!

Sy Montgomery, a naturalist, author, documentary scriptwriter and radio commentator will hold a reading and signing of her new book *THE GOOD GOOD PIG* at the Clues Unlimited Bookstore July 15th at 2:00pm. The store is located at the southwest corner of Country Club and Broadway at 123 S. Eastbourne. Their phone number is (520) 326-8533.

Chris' two pigs, Sophie and John-Paul, will be there!

"This is a book not so much about a barnyard animal as about relationships, in all their messy, joyous and heartbreaking complexity. In loving yet unsentimental prose, Sy Montgomery captures the richness animals bring to the human experience. Sometimes it takes a too-smart-for-his-own-good pig to open our eyes to what most matters in life. *THE GOOD GOOD PIG* is a good, good book, beautifully rendered and filled with wondrous surprises. I will never forget Christopher Hogwood."





# Would You Sponsor Me?

- Amos
- Arnold
- Baldwin
- Bennie
- Betsy
- Betty
- Black Socks
- Bonita



**Benny**

- Latasha
- Lennie
- Little Hamlet
- Little'Un
- Loretta
- Louie
- Lucy
- Major
- Mai Ly
- Mama
- Mamacita



**Shirley**

- Bradley
- Chi
- Chorizo
- Chrissy
- Clarece
- Daley
- Duane
- Ebby
- Edith
- Edwin
- Ferdy

Jolee  
Jumper

Margaret  
Melba

Spike  
Squiggly Verdell

- Gilbert
- Gracie



**Little'Un**

- Millie
- Miss Piggy
- Missy
- Morgan
- Mr. Pigg
- Otis
- Pepe
- Pete
- Popeye
- Porky



- Harley
- Harriet
- Hart
- Hondie

*After volunteering at the Ironwood Annex, I have come back to Ironwood to work continuing the sponsorship program for Michelle, who has moved back to Montana.*

*I am looking forward to a long and happy connection to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, working with the piggies and corresponding with all the donors and volunteers who make it possible for us to continue this wonderful work.*

*Jeanie Ziegler  
Sponsorship Coordinator*

- Pretty Girl
- Princess Profit
- Roger
- Rosie
- Scarlet Scout
- Shannon
- Shelton
- Shirley

- Wallace
- Waylon
- White Socks
- Woolly Bully
- Zena
- Ziggy

**And There are Many More...**

# Greetings From Montana

**F**or those of you who don't already know, I left the sanctuary in early March to move back to Montana. I can't even begin to express how difficult the decision was for me to make. But when life knocks on your door and invites you to explore more of life and offers you opportunities to grow and become a stronger, better individual... how can you say no?!

So it has been almost a month and I still wake up every morning and think about Herman, Pinkerton, Mattie, Tully, Grunt, Bubba, Big Hamlet, Misty... I still miss them all very much.

I would like to thank Ben and Mary and all the staff at Ironwood! The work is hard and the days are long; your dedication and love for the pigs is tremendous! Thank you for taking such great care of these incredible creatures!

Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters! It has been a pleasure and a great joy sharing the pigs with you!! Thank you for all of your wonderful



notes, I truly enjoyed receiving them!

So, the journey continues and I know that wherever the journey takes me, Ironwood will always be a place I will call home and who knows... I may just find my way back there to help out from time to time!!

Have fun - Michelle —



## Arizonans for Humane Farms

### Please contact:

Arizonans for  
Humane Farms  
PO Box 3095  
Tempe, AZ 85280  
Phone: 480-449-  
7644  
Fax: 480-449-7648  
info@yesforhumanefarms.org

**Signature Gatherers URGENTLY Needed:** I want to make a personal appeal to our supporters who are from Arizona to please help with this very important ballot measure. Time is running short and your help is needed. Please call or write for one or more petitions to help put this anti-cruelty measure on the November ballot. Anti-cruelty laws should apply to all animals. This initiative will begin the process of making life a little more bearable for these poor animals living in factory farms. Maybe one day there will be no factory farms and animals can once again roam and graze and cluck and scratch. Call now to order your petitions before it is too late. Make this dream a reality.

--- Mary

# Trimming Your Pig's Hooves

**T**he staff of Ironwood has always provided education to pig owners on proper health care for their pigs. An important part of that information is keeping your pig's hooves and tusks trimmed. The frequency of trimming is dependent upon how active your pig is. Most pigs require a hoof trim every 3-4 months. Tusk trims vary depending on the age a male pig was neutered.

Keeping your pig's hooves trimmed to the proper length will increase their mobility and stabilization while walking. It can also decrease joint problems in the legs and feet and keep your pig comfortable. We have seen several pigs arrive at the sanctuary with their hooves overgrown to the point of crossing over one another making it



difficult to simply walk. During trimming the pig should be positioned on its back with one person straddling the pig to work on the front hooves. With a helper, both front and back

hooves can be trimmed at the same time using various sized trimmers. Most pigs will voice their displeasure during the process but as soon as they return to an upright position, they immediately forget that anything happened.

Female pigs rarely need to have their tusks trimmed, while males, even when neutered, will need to have theirs trimmed once or twice yearly. Keeping the tusks trimmed will prevent your pig from getting caught in fencing or on other objects as well as keeping people and other pets safe from serious injury. Long tusks on even the gentlest of pigs can cause unintentional wounds. As with the hoof trimming, the pig should be positioned on its back with one person straddling the pig to hold it in an upright position while also holding back the lips to keep them from being burned by the sawing wire. Another person uses a sawing motion with the wire to trim the tusks above the gum line.

Tusk and hoof trimming should never be attempted at home until an experienced trimmer has trained you. Without proper training you could be placing yourself and your pig at risk for injury. If you don't feel comfortable doing your own pig's hooves or tusks, your pig's vet can perform this task for you.

--- Donna



## Advertisement

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived onsite at Ironwood for over four years. Donna and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-682-4686 to set up an appointment.



**Donna Trimming one of her pigs**

# Thanks to All Who Help

**A**s always I want to say thank you to everyone who helped with Ironwood activities over these past few months. I want to extend a very special thank you to Barbara DuPlisse and her husband Bruce, who not only stuffed thousands of mailers for us, but she has graciously done hundreds of thank you notes for Ironwood as well. Also Terry Lyte and a young friend did a great deal of data entry, which is a very tedious job. A large group of students from Green Fields Country Day School (see picture) came out for a day of volunteering and what a great day it was. They raked three of our fields and cleaned all of our feed bowls. Many hands make light work, as they say, and boy is that true. Cecilia Monroe brought her Sunday school class out and they helped with our watering after their tour.



with all the fruit and veggie treats. And speaking of fruits and veggies, the Annex pigs continue to look for Willie's arrival with the truckloads of produce. Although the pigs don't like it much, we have gotten

a lot of our pigs trimmed this winter with Donna's help, and she has been supplying loads of carpets to us compliments of her brother-in-law.

Shortly after my sister Susan retired she came to visit the pigs and give us a hand for a few days raking the fields. This is a job that is never done and we always need help with. Thanks a lot, Sue, and we hope to see more of you over this way now that you are retired.

And to all of you, our supporters, we say THANKS for making this Fifth Year Anniversary possible.

— Mary

Bob has been with us five long years now, from the first day the cement truck arrived to pour cement for our generator slab. We look forward to his Wednesday visits and the pigs love him to come

## Our Wish List

### SHELTER MATERIALS:

- \* Kool Coat

### REALLY BIG TICKET ITEMS:

- \* Clinic/Recovery Building
- \* Tractor with Backhoe

### THINGS WE CAN ALWAYS USE:

- \* Water Hoses
- \* Stamps (39 cents)
- \* Turtle Sandboxes
- \* Shade Cloth (Black Preferred)
- \* Many Used Blankets
- \* Doghouses & Igloo Shelters (Large Preferred)
- \* Gift Card to Home Depot, Target, Walgreens, Lowes, or Wal-Mart
- \* Vet Wrap

# Ironwood's New Address

**Y**ou may have noticed the change in our mailing address to P.O. Box 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740. We have made this change for security reasons for the donations we receive.

When mail arrives at the sanctuary at 34656 East Crystal Visions Road it actually arrives at the mail box shown in the picture, which is six miles from the sanctuary and 7 miles from Marana! These boxes are very remote and because of occasional break-ins we were concerned about the security of donations it might contain. Luckily Ironwood's



**34656 East Crystal Visions Road**

mail has never been affected by the break-ins.

We still can receive mail at the sanctuary so you can continue to write us at 34656 E. Crystal Visions Rd. Marana, AZ 85653 or if you prefer P.O. Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740.

## More On Our Annex

**A**s many of you know, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary consists of two facilities. Our large facility is located in Pinal County and in no danger of disruption. However, our Annex facility is in Pima County and we have been at risk due to zoning issues for some time now. The good news on our Annex is we are still there and still doing well. The pigs are enjoying their routine, and like all of our older pigs at Ironwood, they don't want their lives disrupted. They have their routine and their friends and their special shelter and they would be happy to stay just where they are. We have done a lot of work there these past few weeks getting them ready for summer and we are hopeful things will go well for us and the pigs, but we are aware that it may not. Pima County is now in the process of writing rules governing animal rescues. I attended the first Board meeting regarding this matter. They are considering conditional use permits and rules about setbacks, building requirements, and numbers and types of animals. Please know that regardless of what happens, our

Annex pigs will be safe because there will always be room at our Pinal County facility for them. We will be working with the Pima County Board of Supervisors and their staff to try to reach a satisfactory agreement and we will keep our supporters updated, especially those of you who have sponsored pigs there. Besides, Licorice has done a lot of work out there making huge craters for his summer wallows and will be very upset if he has to start all over again!



**Pamala**

# Ways to Support Your Sanctuary

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.



## Donating Money the Easy Way!

Every time you make a purchase from an eScrip member merchant, the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will receive a donation from the merchant up to 5% of your purchase.

Please sign up by visiting [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), call us at (520) 575-8469 or write to us for an enrollment form. Our Group ID is **150540842**. Everyone can join, so be sure to tell all your family and friends. Thank you for all of your help!

## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Almost every day the sanctuary receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, "where will the money come from to help this one?" The answer is: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25 or \$1,000, will be charged to your credit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring.

## BEQUEST

Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the 440 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated. Consider putting the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your WILL so that your support can continue after you are gone. We can accept appreciated stock, real estate, or other assets. Please check with your financial adviser. Please call or write for the exact wording of our name and address.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.



**Leonard & August on his tour boat.**  
**"My customers really loved her,**  
**she was good for business!"**



## Pictures and Stories for our Newsletter

If you have a cute story and/or a picture of your favorite pig please send it to us and we may be able to incorporate it into our newsletter.

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY  
34656 E. CRYSTAL VISIONS RD.  
MARANA, AZ 85653  
520-631-6015  
ironwoodpigs@starband.net  
www.ironwoodpigsanctuary.org

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Return Service Requested

# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



**From  
Left:  
Good  
Friends  
Jack  
Charlotte  
and  
Ebony  
Enjoying  
Their  
Summer**