Dear Supporter,

A year ago last August we published our first newsletter. We hope our first readers continue to enjoy our journey along the way and we hope our new readers are happy to come aboard. It has been a journey that has been sometimes smooth and sometimes bumpy. Right now it is about as bumpy as the dirt road that leads to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, and for those of you who have been here, you know that is pretty darn bumpy.

Since our May 1st issue we have found ourselves in the unpleasant position of taking over another sanctuary that fell onto hard times and went into foreclosure. This was the sanctuary where we began our journey with potbellied pigs when we worked there as volunteers a number of years ago. Please read the details of this acquisition in this newsletter. Because of this added burden we are experiencing very difficult times. We are stretched physically, emotionally, and financially to our limits and beyond. This makes it necessary for us to reach out to our supporters more than ever before. Please help in any way you can.

With the hot summer months upon us we are spending a great deal of time keeping our pigs safe from the heat. We have built many shade ramadas where as many as 21 pigs will gather at a time to wallow in the mud and cool off in the wading pools. Since pigs do not sweat, when temperatures climb to 110 degrees they can become overheated and stressed very easily. We spend many hours a day watering; morning, noon, and afternoon. I look longingly for the first hints of fall.

Many new pigs have come to call Ironwood home in these past few months and some of our long time friends have gone to new adoptive caregivers. It is hard to say goodbye to our friends, but Ironwood should only be a temporary stopover if good adoptive homes can be found. For most of our pigs, Ironwood will be their forever home since there is a shortage of good homes for pigs, but as some of our family moves out they make room for others to move in.

We have also seen some changes in our personnel. We have welcomed Justin G., Saundra, June, and Pamala as part time workers and Donna Thomason, our manager, is now Donna Norton. We are glad to have such hard workers and congratulations to Donna and Justin N. on their recent marriage.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President and CoFounder

PS: Bob, pictured here with me, was found in a 6x6 foot pen with no food or water, a lot of trash, and a small doghouse. The owner was turned in to Animal Control by her own father after Bob had been abandoned three weeks. Welcome to Ironwood Bob!
Ironwood’s New Annex

It was Thursday, May 1st, and Ben and I were excited and packing for a week vacation to Sedona, a break we were so much looking forward to. Then the call came. Mary, the caller said, I have some bad news for you. The Pigs*A*Lot property is being sold in a foreclosure sale on May 16th. The owner would take 20 to 25 of her pigs with her to a property she owned across the street, and the rest---well, they would be left behind. Could we help? My heart nearly stopped. Raggedy, LuLu, JT, George, Buddy, Millie, Daisy Mae, Ebony, Charlotte, Jack and so many others. These were all my pig friends from years ago when we were volunteers there. What would happen to all my friends? We would be gone until May 9th, leaving us only one short week to decide what to do. We left the next morning on vacation, and on the way delivered our little “kids” Elmer and Angel to their new adopted parents, Donn and Holly. Here they were going off to their new home and all those pigs at Pigs*A*Lot were in great peril. We did not have a count but were told around 50 would be left behind. How could we absorb that many pigs at Ironwood? And how could we act fast enough to get an expansion field ready and get the pigs off the property before the bank took possession and had the pigs removed from the property.

Since I was certain neither animal control nor the Humane Society could take that many large animals, which included two large hogs, Licorice and Lilly, it was likely the live stock officer would be called and they would be hauled off to be sold for slaughter.

While on vacation we began to make many phone calls. A friend’s lawyer did some work for us and we were able to determine how much was owed on the property. We decided after many calls and conversations our only option to really be sure the pigs would remain safe was to buy the property ourselves at the foreclosure sale. When we returned home, we began the frantic process of trying to deal with buying the property, which was less than a week away. On May 16th, Ben went to the courthouse steps and bought the property for one dollar more than was owed. We now have the whole cost of the property on credit cards while we are working to get a loan.

Continued on Next Page
After a big sigh of relief that now the property was ours and the pigs would be safe, the real panic set in. The good news is that the pigs, with the exception of a couple of older thin pigs and a few in need of medical care, were all in good condition. The bad news was that our real count was 85, not 50. We were making plans to partition off part of one of our fields at Ironwood and take them all as one herd, but that count was staggering. The property and the house were in major disrepair, but the infrastructure for the pigs was there, much of which we had helped to build years earlier, and this was home for all these pigs. So the decision was made to have the pigs remain on the property and we would have an Annex to Ironwood. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and many donated supplies: including kitchen cabinets, stove, sink, flooring tile, ceiling fans, and others, the house is beginning to take shape. After hauling 15 large truck loads of trash with Jim’s and others’ trucks and again many donated supplies of hoses, rakes, and wading pools, the outside is beginning to look better also. A generous donor got us started on the repair of the house and her contractor was able to get many of the needed items donated to us. We purchased and put up over the July 4th weekend, a whole new perimeter fence and have repaired pens and put up new gates. The pigs are now secure and will have locked gates.

I have saved the best for last. Pamala Medlock and her son, Matan will be moving onto the property and will be caretakers for our new pigs at the Annex. During this time of repair and rebuilding, she has been making two trips to the property daily to see that the animals are watered and fed. The previous owner has also helped with feeding in the morning. Pamala had just joined the staff at Ironwood in April and was happy to be near Marana High School where her son is in a special program for deaf children. We are delighted to have been so fortunate to have Pamala and Matan available and willing to move onto the property.

So the pigs are safe and will have a willing and able caretaker, but the costs to us are staggering. We have a new property to pay for as well as the water, feeding and caring for another 85 +/- pigs, house repairs that will approach $10,000 and fencing and infrastructure repairs that will cost about $5,000. We had not budgeted for these additional costs and are really struggling more than ever before in our short life as a sanctuary. We had so little time to make decisions and we did what we felt we had to do to save the lives of the pigs of Pigs*A*Lot. Now we must ask for your help. So much has happened in a few short weeks. So many folks have helped out in temperatures that are unbearable. Won’t you do whatever you can financially to help us turn what could have been a real disaster into a continuing success story?
Ironwood’s Assisted Living Field

Emily doesn’t stray far from the cool comfort of the mist system in the barn, the nearby wallows, or the feeding troughs. Emily is still overweight, but losing weight gradually and doesn’t like to move too far within the confines of her new home. So far she hasn’t taken advantage of her greater space, but she has the freedom to whenever she wants. I’m sure that when the weather cools she will be more adventuresome. That is the special attraction of the new Assisted Living Field. She along with 15 other pigs now call this home.

When visitors come to Ironwood, the tour includes the 24 holding pens where new arrivals are kept until we can assess their condition and determine what field division within the 6 acre main field would best suit their temperament. After their evaluation period, a pig is moved to one of our 6 fields where they are most compatible.

However, there are some pigs that just can’t cope when placed within one of the main field divisions for various reasons. These pigs have been kept in their holding pens since arriving at Ironwood. We have started referring to them as “Lifers”. We make sure that these “Lifers” also have the opportunity to visit the exercise yard. But as the number of “Lifers” increased, we wanted to provide a better life for them. The idea of an extension of the exercise yard where all these pigs would have as little or as much of all the space they might want began to grow in our minds. With generous donations from two supporters, we were able to build the Assisted Living field and make our dreams come true for these pigs.

The Assisted Living field is 8800 square feet in area, is surrounded with 6 foot high heavy gauge chain link fence, and contains automatic waterers, shelters, wallows and a 20ft by 20ft barn with a mist system for hot days.

Roland is blind and does quite well once he figures out the shape of his territory. A large field would not be appropriate for his special needs. We have Hamlet who is old and feeble, Oprah who is old and lame, Norman who is feeble and also doesn’t see too well, Russel with an old dislocated shoulder that never healed properly, Corky, Bubba, Pearl, and Benjamin, who are all lame. Swiney and Mabel are old and were not able to cope with the larger field. Sylvia was attacked by a dog at a young age and has still not recovered completely from her injuries. Oliver is not disabled but is a life long buddy with Benjamin and we didn’t have the heart to separate them. And finally Abigail, who was released to Ironwood because she attacked members of her caregiver’s family. We hope that her temperament will improve with the extra space provided in the Assisted Living field. Abigail has shown no aggression towards another pig.

To prepare for the day when these “Lifers” would be moved to the Assisted Living field, groups were put into the exercise yard together to evaluate their compatibility with one another. We introduced the pigs to each other very slowly and gradually built up the existing group that has since been moved to the Assisted Living field.

As time goes by, there may be additional pigs that could benefit from the Assisted Living field. We will introduce these pigs slowly into the existing herd.

We are very pleased with our new field and the pigs seem to enjoy it as well. You can see them contentedly laying around one of the wallows or in the barn with their new friends.
We always like to leave room in our newsletter to thank all of you who help us on our way to becoming and remaining a good sanctuary. Without your help our pigs, now numbering nearly 350 with our new additions from the Ironwood Annex, would simply not have a home.

A very special thanks goes to Jane Schwerin for her continued support of our efforts, especially now during these really hard times with the new added burden of the annex. She has been a true friend to all these pigs, most of whom she has never even seen. And to Deanna Richardson who got us started on the repair of the home at the annex. She donated money, put us in touch with Bob, who could do the job, and through them Dave Morris who donated many items for the house from his remodels, including kitchen cabinets, a stove, tile for the floor, everything including the kitchen sink. She and her father Max also help us with our medical rounds at the sanctuary.

I am no longer able to keep up with my hand written thank you notes on my own, and I would like to give a really big thank you Lisa, Marty, Mary, Lis, and Carolyn who have helped me over and over again to be sure everyone gets a thank you when we receive a donation. This is such a huge help to me.

Our regulars are our lifeblood. Jim hauls all of our grain and his truck still spends more time at our place than his, and Bob has increased his volunteer time to two days a week most weeks. Sara and Jyl came to Ironwood and stayed at the volunteer center and they each helped us for a week. Jyl contributed the picture of Edith on the cover. In addition, the annex has only been able to take shape because of the help of many volunteers who came and worked in the hot summer sun all day and brought many supplies as well. Jacqui coordinated two workdays with Amber and Benjamin from the Youth Volunteer Corps of the Volunteer Center. All those kids got a real introduction to how hard the work is at an animal sanctuary. Thanks!

And last, but certainly not least, thanks to all of you who continue to send us checks and credit card donations. Sometimes I feel so tired and frustrated and alone, but when I sit down to write this thank you section of our newsletter I realize the umbrella is huge and the pigs have many friends. We will survive these hard times!

Mary Schanz
As of this writing, we have 269 pigs at our Ironwood Sanctuary and another 80 at our recently acquired Annex in Avra Valley. Every pig is special and we don’t spare any effort to make them happy and take care of their needs. Gretel’s case is a good example of how we go the extra mile for one of our sick pigs.

Any volunteers and staff who have helped out in the Special Needs field have met Gretel. She lives out in the low shelter in the middle of the field and stands guard over her domain. She takes this duty seriously and will pop out from under the shelter when intruders are near. Gretel will be your best friend, however, if you turn on the water hose and spray her down!

In early March of this year, Gretel became very lame on her left front leg. Her foot swelled and was painful. It required lancing and draining which was performed under a general anesthesia by our veterinarian Dr. Barbara Page. Gretel was moved to one of our individual pens and put on antibiotics for the infection. Dr. Page taught us how to drain and clean the wound, pack it in salve and wrap the foot in bandages. This process was repeated initially every 2 days and later every 3 days.

The bandage had to be kept dry, so Gretel’s beloved pool was taken away. X-rays taken in April showed that an infection that had begun between her hooves had developed into osteomyelitis, moved upwards into her foot and had deteriorated the bone.

Things were not looking good for Gretel at this point. She was started on a treatment of strong antibiotics that consisted of an injection given every three days. Gretel grew to dread us coming into her pen. The outward appearance of her foot was showing much improvement during the month of May. The injections were now given once every 5 days and were later increased to 6 days. Throughout this entire ordeal Gretel remained in good spirits and kept up a healthy appetite.

In mid June, Dr. Page paid another visit to the sanctuary to get more x-rays of Gretel’s foot. We anxiously awaited the results and to our surprise and relief, the report was great! Gretel’s foot was clear of any infection and the bone had begun to mend itself. Finally, on June 25th after nearly four months of treatment, Gretel was led back to the Special Needs field where she happily rejoined her group of friends and is once again in charge of intruder control in her domain!

She eventually grew to dread us coming into her pen.
**Great News!** We now have 73 pigs with sponsors! Some of our sponsors have been a part of our program for close to 2 years. This monthly support program is a wonderful opportunity for you to share in the growth and maintenance of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, while getting to know your individual pig through photos and letters at the same time. I enjoy the communication with our sponsors and being able to share the events and happenings in the lives of our pigs.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor too, it only takes $30 each month to cover your pig’s expenses including food and health care. For your monthly contribution, you will receive background information and pictures of your pig with updates and new pictures throughout your sponsorship. The monthly donations can be set up with your credit card or I can send self-addressed envelopes for each month’s check. Choose one of the pigs featured on these pages or send me a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and you too can become a special member of our sponsorship program.

Thank you for making a difference!

*Donna*
Pick a Name for Your Sponsored Pig

How would you like to pick a name for your sponsored pig? Maybe you would like to remember a favorite aunt, uncle, parent or mentor.

We have a number of pigs without names because they came as a large herd of 57 pigs and most of them didn’t have names.

Let us know your choice of name.
Ways to Support Your Sanctuary

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

eScrip

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, 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 everyday 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 simple: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it $1 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.

Greater Good

You can make donations to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary at no cost to you by shopping with your favorite web merchants through the Greater Good web site. Just request that you want to support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary which is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Greater Good can be found at www.greatergood.com/partner/ironwoodpigsanctuary
Meet Our Pigs

Oprah

Oprah is a large, 12 year old female whose owners moved and were unable to take her with them. Oprah came to Ironwood in April and after her evaluation period, was moved to the one of the newer fields. She adjusted quickly to her new herd and was doing fine until one morning at feeding time she was unable to get up by herself. After a couple of days with no improvement, Oprah was moved back to a pen and put on pain medication. She improved quickly, but we were hesitant to put her back in the field because of her age and possible recurrence of her leg problems. After a couple of trial turns in the new, smaller assisted living area, Oprah has found a home. She immediately tried out all the pools and found them to her liking. She claimed a shelter right next to one of the shade ramadas. So far, the new arrangement is working out well for Oprah and the other pigs (as long as none of them try to take her pool time!)

Boudreaux

One morning while feeding the herds in the field, I received a call from a wildlife rehabilitator who had made numerous sightings of a stray pig in her area over the past couple of months. However, this morning he was sporting a severely damaged ear and several scratches on his neck. The woman managed to get him into a temporary pen and called for help. Mary went up later that day to bring home Boudreaux, a very scared young male. He had his wounded ear treated and was neutered later that week. The entire ear had been bitten off which gives him a very unique appearance. Boudreaux has healed up nicely and is getting more used to being around people. He’ll soon be making his debut in the field along with Toby and several other recent arrivals.

Toby

Toby is an adorable 3-year-old gray male who was not neutered when he came to Ironwood. Two and half years ago, his owners had moved away and abandoned Toby at their home. A neighbor took him in but recently decided she no longer wanted him. He is very sweet, although still a little shy. He is a very talkative pig that loves to chat with the other pigs. When his turn in the exercise yard comes up, he immediately heads to the adjoining fence at the new assisted living area and visits with the pigs over there. We had Toby neutered in June, so he will soon be finished with his quarantine period and be ready to move out into the field to find his place within the herd.

Good luck, Toby!
Ironwood’s Experiment in Wilcox

Tina Benson received one of Ironwood’s flyers last year and ended up coming to our open house in November. She wanted to help but it was too much of a commute from the Wilcox area to Marana. She had two pot bellied pigs and a fenced area that could be used for additional pigs. Mary suggested that she might want to foster some of our pigs since we were approaching our limit at Ironwood. Tina jumped at the chance and Mary knew the perfect situation where Tina could help. A woman named Maria had 6 pot bellied pigs that she needed to place. She was in the military and was expected to be called up for duty in Iraq soon. All the pigs had lived together for years and all the males were neutered. It was a ready made situation for the experiment in Wilcox. Mary and Ben visited Tina in order to make sure the property was adequate for the new pigs. The proposed site for the new arrivals contained a number of large trees that would provide good shade in the summer and an elevation that was cooler than Tucson’s intense summers. Once Mary and Ben approved the location with some minor changes agreed to by Tina and her husband, the planning to move the pigs started in earnest.

Maria contracted with a mover with a large horse trailer. Ben and volunteer Bob met the mover at Maria’s and helped load the 6 pigs for their long trip to Wilcox. Maria had a large open yard and to make the move possible Ben and Bob had gone to Maria’s house the previous week and made a small corral with hog panels with an open panel on one end. The plan was for Maria to lure the pigs into this corral with food and close the panel so that on the moving day all the pigs would be easier to herd into the horse trailer. This plan worked great with only one pig out of the corral. The wayward pig was easily moved into the horse trailer. The pigs were transported without incident and are all happy in their new home.

The agreement that the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary had with Tina was that Ironwood would provide all of the food and veterinary care for the pigs with Tina providing the day to day care. As it has turned out Tina is so happy with her 6 charges that she got a part time job and provides all the feed and hay out of her earnings. This experiment has been a great success.
TRIMMING TIME

Providing proper health care for your pig includes keeping their tusks and hooves trimmed. Females rarely need their tusks trimmed while males, even when neutered, will need to have theirs trimmed regularly. How often this needs to be done is dependent on the age a male is neutered. Trimming will keep your pig safe from getting caught in fencing or other objects, as well as keeping people and other pets safe from getting gored. For most pigs, tusk trimming can be performed while the pig is on its back. One person should straddle 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.

Keeping your pig’s hooves trimmed to the proper length will increase their mobility and stabilization while walking. We’ve seen several pigs come to us with their hooves overgrown to the point of curling upwards and crossing over one another. Regular trims can decrease leg and foot problems and keep your pig comfortable. Again, the pig should be positioned on its back with one person straddling the pig. 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 returning to an upright position, they immediately forget that anything was amiss.

Tusk and hoof trimming should not 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 an 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.
Employees Needed

WANTED: A trustworthy, caring person who loves animals to live at and work for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a non-profit pot bellied pig sanctuary located near Marana, a rural area of southern Arizona one hour drive north of Tucson.

This is HARD work. Job duties include, but are not limited to, cleaning pens and fields, helping with feeding, help with hands-on care of pigs who are disabled, injured, or sick, or general animal care. Help with trimming tusks and hoofs. Handling 40# bags of feed and assisting with moving bales of hay to the various feeding stations. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays as necessary. Must be able to lift 50+ lbs. Five day work week.

Housing consists of a room with private bath in a modern late model mobile home used as the visitor center. The housing will comfortably accommodate one person and a small companion animal.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is located in Marana, Arizona on 50 acres in a beautiful Sonoran desert habitat. The climate is moderate in winter and hot in summer. Summer daytime temperatures can be in the 100’s with nighttime temperatures in the 70’s. The surrounding mountains are perfect for hiking. Southern Arizona is a premier bird watching area.

We are looking for a dedicated person who is ready to commit to the care of unwanted and abused pot bellied pigs. Is that YOU?

Wading Pools Wanted

This summer we have used over 100 wading pools that our pigs need for cooling off during these hot days. Luckily we were able to buy 50 at the end of last summer when they went on sale for $2 each instead of the normal $7 price. Please keep a lookout for this sale in your area near the end of summer and buy as many as you can. If you can’t afford to buy all that are available, please let us know and we will send someone to purchase the pools for us. Once the sale starts the pools sell out fast! Here in Tucson we purchased the 50 last year from our Target stores.

Please let us know if you have any of the following items to donate:

* Children’s Multi-vitamins
* Any size Dog Igloo Shelter but extra large and giant preferred.
* All sizes of Wading Pools and Turtle Sand Boxes to be used for water for the summer season.
* Shade Cloth - black preferred.
* Towels
* Sunscreen for our white pigs.
* Water hoses
* 1500 to 2000 gallon water truck
* Digital Camera
* 35mm Film
* Well-equipped First Aid kit for volunteers and workers.
* Corrugated Roofing
* 1/2 inch plywood
* Treated & untreated lumber
* Small tractor with back hoe
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, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in November of 2000 in Marana, Arizona, a rural community northwest of Tucson, as a result of the overpopulation of other sanctuaries in Arizona. Our sanctuary consists of 40 acres with 10 being developed exclusively for pot bellied pigs and the remaining 30 serving as a buffer or for future growth. Recently released or rescued pigs are housed in one of 24 holding pens in order to give us the opportunity to evaluate new arrivals, treat them for specific wounds or illnesses and provide the pigs time to acclimate to a different environment and to each other through the safety of fencing. Over time, the pigs are transferred from their holding pens to a 6 acre field where they can mingle with the herd yet still have plenty of room to find their own space when wanted. Individual and sharable shelters as well as mud wallows and pools are available in all areas.

Ironwood also places pigs in adoptive homes. All prospective “parents” are screened. We want to be sure that these lovable creatures are a welcome part of the family. Ironwood has a number of resident pigs that have personality problems, have been abused or are too old to be adopted. Pigs not adoptable will live out their lives at the sanctuary. You can help them by sponsoring your favorite resident pig! A contribution of $30 a month pays for all your pig’s expenses. Your sponsorship gives you all the background information available on your pig, including a photo, and periodic updates. Visit your very own pig as often as you like. They always like company and, of course, those special treats you bring.

Ironwood accepts calls to rescue pot bellied pigs found wandering in neighborhoods or in the desert, those left in community shelters and any who are abused or abandoned by their owners. We also receive pigs from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has a boarding facility exclusively for pot bellied pigs that provides a peaceful setting away from the trauma of barking dogs and other stressful conditions that can occur at other boarding kennels. Please call for more information about our boarding program.

If you would like to help the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary call Donna or Mary for volunteer opportunities or send in your tax-deductible donation.
Return Service Requested

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
34656 E. CRYSTAL VISIONS RD.
MARANA, AZ 85653
(520)631-5851/631-6015
ironwood@starband.net
www.ironwoodpigsanctuary.org

Ironwood's South Field

Ironwood’s South Field