

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE & ADDITION TO EVENT CALENDER**

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[Photos Available at www.gppaaz.org/cookoutphotos.htm](http://www.gppaaz.org/cookoutphotos.htm)

### **Cookout at the Ranch XII, Saturday, October 27, 2006**

***Preservation benefit features desert setting, food, western entertainment, wildlife exhibits***

The horse-drawn wagons are back and the good times will roll for the twelfth consecutive year at the annual Cookout at the Ranch. Sponsored by Outback Steakhouse, Desert Foothills Cookouts, and MacDonald's Ranch, the event will be held on Saturday evening, October 27 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at historic MacDonald's Ranch, in north Scottsdale.

Guests can ride a wagon or van to the festive cookout site nestled among towering saguaros. Friends, neighbors, and out-of-town visitors can relax and enjoy a complimentary beverage, and savor an Outback Steakhouse buffet. The evening's festivities includes live western entertainment, featuring The Stragglers band with Geoff Conklin, cowboy trick roper/rider Brian Baush, Gina Durbin and her trick pony Earl Grey, and Wild At Heart's exhilarating release of a rescued great horned owl. During the evening, guests can enjoy 20 wildlife and community exhibits, bid on silent auction items, and invest in tickets for the Deluxe Cruise/\$25,000 Drawing. Later, Mindy Hubbard will teach and lead the willing in fun and easy-to-do line dances. Exhibitors include Arizona State Parks, Arizona State Horsemen's Association, Arizona Heritage Project, Cave Creek Museum, Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Desert Foothills Land Trust, Liberty Wildlife, Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale Preservation Department, and Southwest Wildlife. Civic leaders will be on-hand.

Organizers are Friends of the Scenic Drive, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park, Rotary Club of Pinnacle Peak, and the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association. The event benefits desert preservation, wildlife rehabilitation, Rotary charities, and the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive. Advance ticket prices: \$45 for adults, \$15 for children, and \$ 350 for a reserved table (8 adults). For information and tickets, visit [www.scenicdrive.org](http://www.scenicdrive.org), [www.gppaaz.org](http://www.gppaaz.org), MacDonald's Ranch (located at 26540 North Scottsdale Road, North Scottsdale - call 480 585-0239 for summer hours of operation), or call the Cookout Hotline at 480 580-0593.

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