

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 20, Rincon Mountains

Friends of the 2000 Census, October 26th



We had a great group on Saturday, October 26, organized by Dale Turner and Carianne Campbell. Dale and Carianne led the Saguaro Census in 2000 and are responsible for re-envisioning the original saguaro study from 1990 as a “citizen science” monitoring program. About 18 of their friends were joined by University of Arizona students, park interns and staff from Arizona Public Media, who are filming a program on the Census for Arizona Illustrated. The group finished half the plot. Determined to finish, Carianne Campbell, called in her troops on November 23rd and we completed the rest of the plot.

The results of this plot are interesting and the findings are likely the result of the hard freeze this area experienced in 2011. To look at the numbers: in 1990, 183 saguaros were measured; in 2006, 290; and in 2010, 313. This year we measured 302. The most noticeable difference was in the counts of the saguaros under 1 meter tall. We only found 72 compared to the 99 counted in 2010 and 112 in 2006. We were however able to find a few really small saguaros, with the smallest measuring 5 cm.

Saguaro Plot #20

