

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Scott Hulbert on one of his many stewardship trips over the last year. © Sam Frank

## “MY OTHER BRIEFCASE IS A BACKPACK...”

by Sam Frank

When you spend your work days arguing with people about million-dollar settlements and whether they're responsible for paying back loans or meeting their contractual obligations, it makes perfect sense to seek out some solitude during your down time. Scott Hulbert does just that—carving out time on the weekends to join the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and its Wilderness Stewardship Program on backcountry trips that give him some peace and quiet—and give back to the wilderness areas he appreciates in Arizona.

“Living and working in a city like Phoenix, you have to force yourself to get back to nature and find that balance,” says Hulbert, 38, who has lived and worked in far flung places like Montana, Colorado, Georgia, Vermont, and Australia.

Scott is a commercial litigator with Engelman-Berger PC, a full-service Phoenix-based law firm that focuses on the prevention and resolution of legal issues arising in business. One of the aspects of his workplace that he values is the firm's civic-mindedness and the fact that its partners encourage employees to volunteer. He was recently named by Southwest Super Lawyers, a national rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas, as one of the top 2 ½ percent of the region's attorneys under 40.

“Scott is one of our longtime return volunteers who can enjoy himself on just about any trip, under any conditions,” says Sam Frank, AWC's Central Arizona Director who leads the stewardship program. “He gets along with everyone, knows our

monitoring and restoration protocols, and is always willing to chip in to help any way he can. He's the type of volunteer outdoor organizations like AWC hope to have on their trips.”

AWC's Wilderness Stewardship Program officially launched in 2011 on the Prescott National Forest, although Scott began joining AWC volunteer field trips in 2008 and has participated in about 4 trips per year ever since. The program's goal is to engage volunteers to work with AWC to restore and maintain Arizona's wilderness areas through overnight and day-long service projects. Often the work is difficult for the agencies to accomplish on their own, with limited budgets and personnel. In 2011 alone, AWC's Wilderness Stewards completed 2,178 volunteer hours, with a monetary equivalent of \$46,522, in eight different wilderness areas around the state.

“My favorite trip so far has been the work we accomplished at Warm Springs Wilderness in 2009, because of its remoteness and the difficult tasks we were asked to do,” says Scott. “It was also the first trip I was on that we partnered with Backcountry Horsemen of Central Arizona, and that was a blast.”

On that trip, AWC's crew worked with the BLM to repair fencing around the springs that would encourage native wildlife to drink undisturbed while preventing non-native burros from further damaging the springs. Scott has also worked on wilderness monitoring and restoration at Apache Creek, Munds Mountain, Cedar Bench, Castle Creek, and Sycamore Canyon Wilderness areas. In 2009, Scott helped to remove more than 100 pounds of trash out of Fossil Springs Wilderness.

“Sam's trips are well-planned,” says Scott. “He prepares to accomplish a lot of work, but also shows us a great time. He's enthusiastic and charismatic and very knowledgeable about all things wilderness. He gives you confidence, being out there, that you're in good hands.”

Scott brought along fellow Engelman Berger attorney Scott Cohen and his son, Aaron, 15, on a past trip to Castle Creek Wilderness, where the work focused on recreation impacts and wilderness monitoring. AWC's overall goal with the Wilderness Stewardship Program is to engage people of all ages to reconnect with Arizona's wild places.

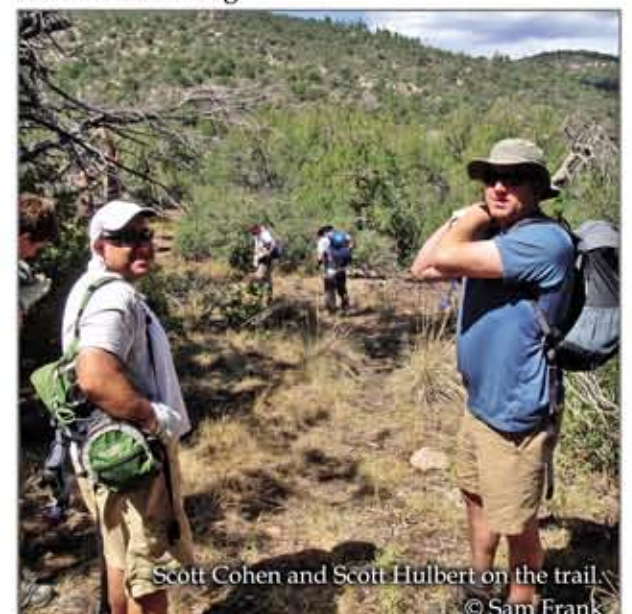
“AWC is not only attempting to protect new wilderness and wild and scenic rivers in Arizona, but they're working to inspire the public to be better stewards of the phenomenal areas we already have,” says Scott. “You won't hear any objections from me about that.”

Sam Frank is located in Prescott and is the Central Arizona Director for AWC, focusing on wilderness stewardship and regional campaigns.

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Cross-cut saw usage is a common wilderness stewardship method. © Sam Frank



Scott Cohen and Scott Hulbert on the trail. © Sam Frank