



THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

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November 12, 2015

Dear ,

Are you grateful for Arizona's amazing, phenomenal wild places? Join us this month in recognizing people and events that helped preserve the Arizona wild lands we enjoy today.

Next Tuesday in Tucson, hear Mark Trautwein, one of the key legislative staff who helped craft the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act. And recognizing Veterans' Day, one of our Saddle Mountain Veterans' Stewardship project participants shares his experience, which you can read in his own words below. **November is also Native American Heritage month** – let's honor the contributions of indigenous people who were early stewards of our lands, and Native people who remain advocates for land preservation today.

With all we have to be grateful for, we ask for your support to continue wilderness preservation work across the state. Giving Tuesday on December 1st is an easy and rewarding way to do just that. **Learn more and make your pledge today to help raise funds** for a special project with students of the Hayden–Winkelman schools.

And to receive the gifts of nature while giving back to the land, we have plenty of Wild Stew



volunteer projects in the coming months. Work off the turkey and revel in Arizona's backcountry!

Yours in Wilderness,



Barbara

Barbara Hawke
Executive Director



Celebrate Arizona Wilderness!

Enjoy great photography, fascinating speakers and camaraderie at *From Aravaipa to the Colorado: Arizona Desert Wilderness Past, Present and Future*, celebrating the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act. Among the panelists are Mark Trautwein, former staffer to Mo Udall, Sergio Avila, and our

own AWC Executive Director. Pulitzer-prize winning photographer Jack Dykinga will open the event. Additional event information: [Bureau of Land Management Arizona](#)

Tuesday, November 17th :: 5:30 – 7:30pm

Hotel Congress :: 311 E Congress St, Tucson ([map/directions](#))

Free & no RSVP needed!

Read more about the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990: [Cherish our Desert Landscapes: Celebrating 25 years of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990](#)



A Global Day of Giving

We need your help December 1st to raise at least \$2,500 to bring fifteen 6th through 8th graders into the Galiuro Mountains for an educational wilderness experience. These students seldom have access to enrichment programs, and funds are greatly needed to support trip costs. Play a part in bringing together youth and nature, sparking a

stewardship ethic that may last a lifetime. [Make a pledge today to schedule your contribution for this year's #GivingTuesday!](#)

Now in its fourth year, #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. With the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday is observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving – and kicks off the charitable season!

A VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE



A Veteran's Perspective

In August, AWC joined with the Kaibab National Forest and twelve veterans from Arizona and Nevada to restore trails around the Saddle Mountain Wilderness on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Wishing to remain anonymous, one of the participants shared his perspective:

As a child growing up on a farm I'd often wander through the woods listening to the sounds of the forest or spend hours fishing and laying in the sun near our small pond.

Hoping to see the world, I later joined the Air Force, serving in both Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. While the air bases I was deployed to were miles from the front lines, I was keenly aware of the violence and carnage of war.

When invited to participate in an AWC-sponsored trip into the Saddle Mountain Wilderness, I was initially uneasy with the idea of joining vets with actual combat experience, as the trip was largely intended to provide therapeutic respite for troubled veterans.

Happily, my fellow veterans graciously ignored my lack of battlefield experience. Better still, the trip reintroduced me to the wonders of the natural world and helped me realize that nature is a remarkable healer. While our trip involved maintaining wilderness trails, our larger purpose entailed having no agenda. Far from familiar surroundings, we were free to meander in the forest, taking time to listen to the wind in the trees or contemplate the stunning sunsets.



VETERANS CLEARED TRAILS IN SADDLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

We talked around the campfire and I enjoyed hearing of varied military experiences. We also came to realize and appreciate that nature can cradle us and absorb our pain. In the wilderness one can learn to be resilient, to reconnect and to live without judgment.

During an excursion to Marble Canyon I watched wondrously as a taciturn Vietnam vet gleefully whooped it up like a rowdy teenager as our pick-up splashed through large puddles of water on the forest road. I was truly thrilled to witness this transformation, however short lived. Indeed, getting back to nature can heal and rejuvenate in amazing ways. *Thanks AWC!*



MORNING YOGA & REFLECTION

Upcoming Events

**NOV
21-22**

Arrastra Wilderness River Monitoring

Join us on an overnight backpack trip along the Big Sandy River in the Arrastra Wilderness to conduct monitoring. We will be taking photographs up and down the river and recording data such as the presence of invasive plants. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

**DEC
12-13**

Chiricahua Wilderness Trail Restoration

The brush over-growth is tremendous, and we need your help! Please join us as we head back to Chiricahua Wilderness to continue much-needed trail maintenance following wildfires and monsoonal erosion. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

**DEC
19-20**

Superstition Wilderness Trail Restoration

We are heading east of Phoenix to the Superstition Mountains Wilderness for trail restoration work. This will be an overnight backpack trip. Additional details are being sussed out now! [Learn more & RSVP.](#)



JOIN US OR RENEW

You can make a tremendous difference in the success of wilderness campaigns by becoming a supporting member and sharing your resources with Arizona's last, best places.



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