

The AWC calendar is full of excellent volunteer opportunities this year - along with fun and educational workshops and hikes. Join us!



January 19, 2016

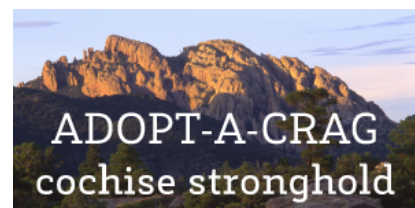
Greetings!,

Last year proved hugely successful for our Wilderness Stewardship program working with more partners and diverse communities, and expanding from National Forests to include Bureau of Land Management lands. And, through citizen wilderness inventory, we've found an additional 13 areas deserving of wilderness management for you to explore and enjoy.

We are so excited to launch into 2016 with two long-term projects that will restore natural habitat along almost 3 river miles of the Hassayampa River (going on now) and Arnett Creek (coming this fall). If you like thrashing weeds or coddling saplings, these projects are for you. And, we're continuing with a full line-up of weekend stewardship and trail maintenance events offering plenty of outdoor options!

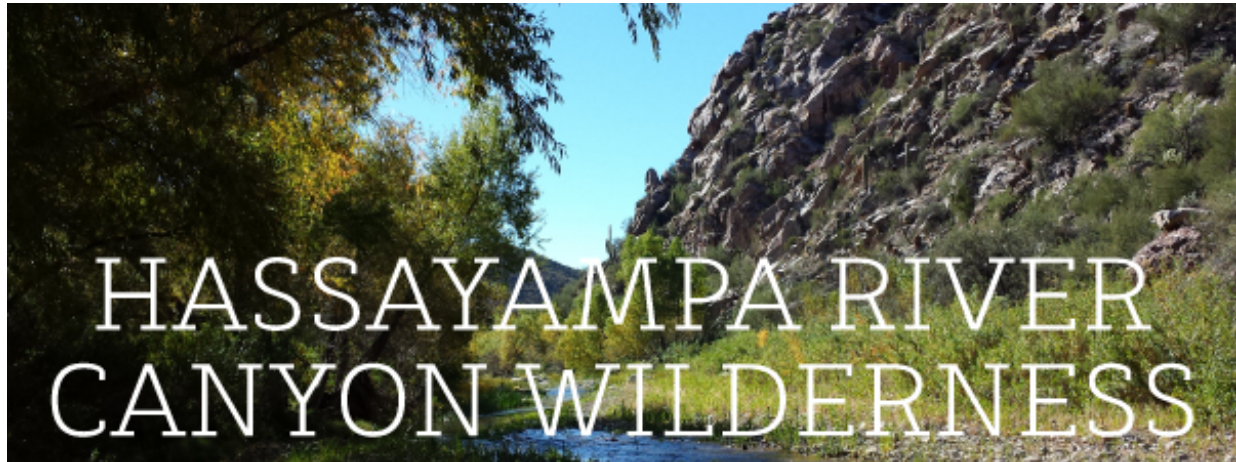
We can accomplish a lot more for conservation when we work with partners. AWC is excited to partner with the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona on a project to control erosion in Cochise Stronghold. Joining with other groups that promote quiet recreation opportunities is important in larger efforts to preserve the magnificent Sky Islands.

Be sure to mark your calendars for a series of special events in March featuring award-winning author



Sean Prentiss, who penned *Finding Abbey*. Sean will join us for a writing workshop, naturalist-led hikes, and interactive social time.

See what we have in store - and we'll see you in the wilds!



ongoing
PROJECT

Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness Restoration Project

This year we are working to preserve two perennial streams in the central Arizona Sonoran Desert - the Hassayampa River and Arnett Creek - through enhanced native vegetation communities and important species habitat. Our focus this winter/spring is the Hassayampa, and our restoration project in the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness is officially underway! We've just started digging holes and planting native willow and cottonwood trees, and would love to have you involved. For additional information and if you are interested in participating, please contact our Wild Stew Coordinator Brian Stultz: brian@azwild.org.

Please note, this is a special project that will not be listed in the events on our [Meetup.com](#) page; you must contact Brian directly to participate.

JAN
30-31

Chiricahua Wilderness Trail Maintenance

We are excited to invite you to our fourth & final trail restoration event in the Chiricahua Wilderness! We've been steadily working toward the end of the Green Canyon and Hoovey Canyon trails, which were heavily impacted by the Horseshoe Fire and subsequent flooding from heavy rain. We will brush out this densely overgrown trail, remove logs, and re-establish tread in washed out areas. Please join us for this overnight car-camping trip, and a well-deserved celebration of completion!

RSVP

FEB
6-7

Castle Creek Wilderness Trail Maintenance & Sign Installation

Join us on this two-day event in Castle Creek Wilderness, nestled in the Bradshaw Mountains between Phoenix and Prescott. We will be focusing on trail brushing and sign installation along the Castle Creek Trail (#239). This is a high-use access route to Hell's Hole, where Thief Creek and Poland Creek converge to form pools, and nearby Big Dipper Falls. It'll probably be too cold for swimming, but you'll want to return in the summer!

RSVP

FEB
20

Cochise Stronghold Erosion Control

We're partnering with the [Climbing Association of Southern Arizona \(CASA\)](#) and the Access Fund for this year's "Adopt-a-Crag" event. Join us for a day of stewardship as we work on erosion control along the approach to Sheep's Head and Trad Rock in Cochise Stronghold West. All volunteers must attend a safety briefing at 9am in order to participate. AWC and CASA will provide a thank-you dinner Saturday night. You are welcome to camp the evening before, or stay Saturday night and climb, hike, or explore on Sunday!

RSVP

FEB
27-28

Superstition Mountain Wilderness Trail Maintenance

We are heading into the Superstitions - a well-loved wilderness just east of Phoenix. We'll be backpacking along the First Water, Boulder, and Black Mesa trails, while continually trail brushing to our overnight location.

RSVP



We are excited to host events with author Sean Prentiss, whose recent book [Finding Abbey: The Search for Edward Abbey and his Hidden Desert Grave](#), is the winner of the 2015 National Outdoor Book Award. Take a peek at what we have in store, and check back next month for

the rest of the details!

March 11 : Sean Prentiss Writing Workshop (10:00am - 2:00pm)

Grab your journal, sharpen your pencil, and prepare to register for this nature-focused writing workshop led by **Sean Prentiss**. As a writer Sean focuses on creative and environmental essays and poems, and will share with you his newly-developed curriculum for nature writing. Discussions will include the impact of nature on humans, and the impact humans have on nature. We will hike outdoors near Tucson for this workshop; location and registration details coming in February!

March 11 : Naturalist Hike (10:00 am)

Join us for a hike near Tucson with author Sean Prentiss and several naturalists...and let's talk about deserts! Sean will join us for the first half of the hike before he then leads his writing group deeper into the wilds. Hikers will then be treated to small discussion groups led by desert-naturalists as we meander our way back. *Free.*

March 13 : Sean Prentiss Meet & Greet (5:00 - 7:00pm)

Join us for an informal social hour with author Sean Prentiss. Grab a favorite beverage, and let's talk! Tucson, location TBD

MAR
19-20

Superstition Mountain Wilderness Trail Maintenance

We're heading back to the Superstitions, but this time to the eastern section of the Wilderness. Our exact location is still to be confirmed, but we will continue to perform light trail maintenance (primarily brushing) while backpacking to an overnight, backcountry location.

[RSVP](#)



The Arizona Wilderness Coalition actively engages and empowers citizens like you who care about Arizona's wild lands. For more than 35 years, we have been working with volunteers to conduct wild land inventories, educate citizens about the unique attributes of Arizona's landscape, and empower our activists to build support for their lasting protection. We need your help protecting our wild lands for the future...join us today!



protecting arizona's wild lands & waters since 1979