



THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

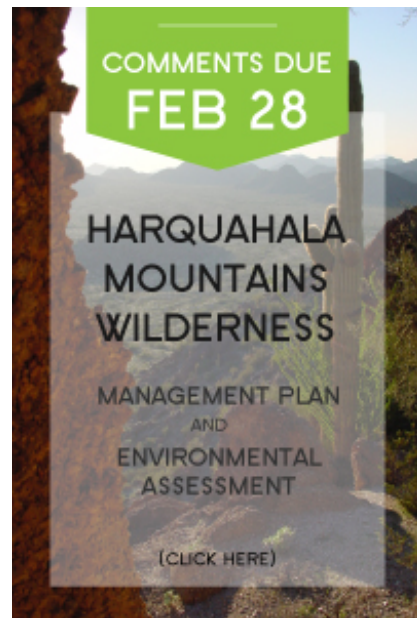
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February 24, 2014

Greetings!

February is a time of transition and renewal in many cultures. February 19th marked the beginning of the Tibetan and Chinese New Year, and February 2nd was celebrated by the ancient Celts as *Imbolc*, associated with new birth. AWC is renewing itself as well, with the hiring of our new Wilderness Stewardship Coordinator, training to expand our stewardship skills, and varied events and activities that help us connect with more of you across the state. Read more below about our new Stew Coordinator, notable recent Stewardship trips to the Sierra Anchas and Superstitions, and an exciting opportunity to help with wilderness inventory in Burro Creek.



Black History Month is also recognized in February, and in this issue we share a compendium of essays and studies examining Wilderness and the African American Experience. Whatever your background, we invite you to find new ways to learn about, explore and renew yourself in Arizona's 90 amazing wilderness areas. Let's go explore!

Yours in Wilderness,



Barbara

Barbara Hawke
Executive Director



Wild Stew Welcomes Brian Stultz

AWC is delighted to welcome Brian Stultz as our permanent Wilderness Stewardship Coordinator. Brian began working with Wild Stew several years ago while still a student at Prescott College, and he's proven his abilities through leading weekly stewardship trips for AWC the past few months. Building on the outstanding

foundation laid by AWC's former Central Arizona Director Sam Frank, Brian is bursting with enthusiasm and ideas for moving Wild Stew toward even greater success. Brian will be practicing his wilderness survival skills by hiking the entire Arizona Trail this spring, before settling in to his new position at AWC's Prescott office in mid-May. [Read more about Brian and drop a "hello"!](#)

Brian Stultz in Wet Beaver Wilderness © AWC



African American Perspectives on Wilderness

As the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act helped bring to light, perspectives on the meaning of "wilderness" have changed over time, and vary across cultures. February's designation as Black History Month is an appropriate time to examine the relationship between African American experience and wilderness.

We've compiled a series of excellent articles that explore Wilderness and the African American experience through history and today. [Read more.](#)

Shelton Johnson, from "Reclaiming the Wilderness"



Connecting Wilderness and the Arizona Trail

March marks the start of something new and exciting in the name of Wilderness! As you might have heard, our own Brian Stultz and Julie Polovitch will start their hike of the Arizona Trail – connecting adjacent Wilderness areas along the way. Their mission is to support AWC as they explore and document the ~800 mile hike from Mexico

to Utah. They'll be keeping a backcountry blog so we can experience all the places they'll be visiting and the unquantifiable value of Wilderness. [Follow Brian & Julie on their AZ Trail Wild adventure!](#)



AWC Presents at National Wilderness Stewardship Training

The hard-working folks at the [Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center](#) assembled nearly 100 agency staff in February for in-depth training on wilderness management and restoration issues

common in the Southwest. Topics included low-impact restoration techniques, fire management, historic preservation, wildlife science and much more. AWC was very gratified to lead a session on Partnerships with conservation nonprofits, drawing on the expertise of Arizona Trail Association, Friends of Sonoran Desert National Monument, and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. Field trips in southeastern Arizona highlighted real-life wilderness management challenges and practical solutions.

Participants at the Carhart training explore Pusch Ridge Wilderness © AWC



The Next Generation of Stewards

As part of AWC's ongoing partnership with Prescott College, Wild Stew volunteers met up with incoming freshman in the heart of the Superstition Wilderness. Julie Polovitch recounts this week-long adventure of stewardship and education, that ensures the legacy of wild places for generations to come. [Read more.](#)

Incoming Prescott College freshman explore Superstition Wilderness © AWC



Hidden Treasures of the Sierra Ancha Wilderness

At almost 21,000 acres the Sierra Ancha Wilderness is a remote gem that offers intrepid explorers many surprises. Box canyons, high cliffs, and pine-covered mountains welcomed a group of Wild Stew volunteers earlier this month. Read Andrew Maher's recount of the special surprise they encountered tucked away in Coon

Creek. [Read more.](#)

Andrew (left) with other Wild Stew volunteers, Sierra Ancha Wilderness © AWC



Woodchute Wilderness Kiosk Installation

Join AWC stewards, Forest Service, veterans, and other partners as we install an information kiosk at the Woodchute Trailhead (#102) and do a little trash pick-up. There will also be a special presentation by Doug Hulmes on the natural history of the area and Woodchute Wilderness. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided by AWC – let's celebrate the next 50 years of Wilderness. [Learn more & register.](#)

Doug Hulmes frequently visits Woodchute Wilderness © AWC



Wilderness Inventory in Northwestern Arizona

Join us in March as we continue to inventory lands with Wilderness character within the Kingman Resource area. This trip will be an exploration of Lower Burro Creek, one of several areas in which we have identified Wilderness characteristics. Throughout the trip we will take time for reflection to produce personal narratives

that will support recommendations to the BLM to preserve the wilderness values of the area. [Learn more & register.](#)

Upper Burro Creek (photo) connects directly with Lower Burro Creek, an area with Wilderness characteristics © Brian Andersen



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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