

There are so many ways to show your love for wilderness this month:  
from special events to sharing your advocate-voice and more!

Support AWC



February 16, 2016

Greetings!,

In February we think of sweethearts and cupid's arrows, yet where do wild landscapes fit into this rosy picture? Wilderness leads us into the heart of things, if we make the effort - and there's so many ways to cultivate your relationship with wilderness this month:

Make a date with Sean Prentiss, award-winning author of "Finding Abbey." We've got an educational hike and writing workshop in Saguaro National Park March 11th, and a happy hour at Ermano's Craft Beer and Wine Bar March 13th, [details below](#).

Get intimate with rocks and loppers through Wild Stew events in the Superstition Mountains and beyond - [check out the trip schedule below](#) to find your perfect match.

Wear your heart on your sleeve by writing a letter or attending a meeting to advocate for wilderness preservation. Sonoran Desert National Monument is reevaluating target shooting management, and your voice can make a difference - see "[Take Action](#)" details below.

Get cozy with the thoughtful side of wilderness through the "Crossroads in the Chiricahuas" [essay by Brandon Arents](#), and learn about the role of African-Americans and western public lands through the



story of the "Triple Nickles" and contemporary perspectives on diversity in the Bureau of Land Management.

Embracing everything we love about wilderness,



Barbara

Barbara Hawke  
Executive Director

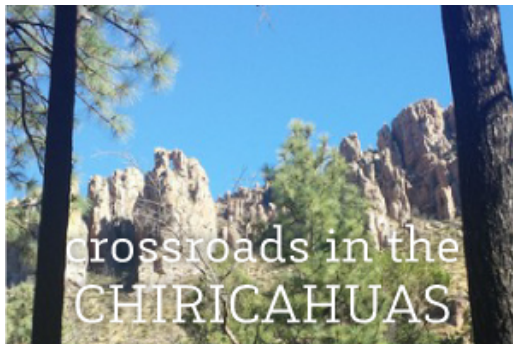


## Wild Nature with Sean Prentiss

Award-winning author Sean Prentiss partners with AWC for not-to-be-missed events exploring ecology, environmental writing, and our intimate relationship with nature. Join the free nature hike in Saguaro National Park on March 11th starting at 10:00am, and gather with us for a Wildly Happy Hour on March 13th starting at 5:00pm at Ermano's Craft Beer and Wine

Bar in Tucson. Ermano's will donate 10% of event proceeds to AWC. And if words kindle your passion, **register early** for the March 11th writing workshop with Sean, 10:00am to 2:00pm in Saguaro National Park West, followed by a reading from "Finding Abbey" with a book signing at 2:30pm.

[Learn More](#)



## Crossroads in the Chiricahuas

A fourth and final trek into the Chiricahua Mountains opened access along the heavily damaged Hoovey Trail, thanks to AWC's intrepid volunteers who braved rugged terrain and snow. Read Brandon Arents' thought-provoking essay on this stewardship trip, and the role of volunteers on public lands.

[Read More](#)



## Diversity and Public Lands

February is Black History Month, and a good time to recognize the lesser-known contributions of African-Americans to our public lands.

In a fascinating story of pride and courage, NPR reports on how African-American Smoke Jumpers saved western forests. The **Triple Nickles** were an elite group of

paratroopers who helped quell forest fires in the west during World War II.

[Read More](#)

We also commend the **Bureau of Land Management - Phoenix District** for exploring contemporary issues of diversity in their **February newsletter**. Learn more about agency perspectives on Black History Month and diversity.

[Read More](#)



## Sonoran Desert National Monument

The Sonoran Desert National Monument is beginning scoping for a new plan to manage target shooting in the Monument. This is an important issue that can impact many resources - ecological, cultural and recreational. Comments are due March 21st.

[Learn More](#)

## Prescott National Forest Plan Update

AWC appealed the Final Land and Resource Management Plan issued by the Prescott National Forest, documenting our concerns regarding evaluation of potential additional wilderness areas. We had an appeals conference with PNF and Region 3 staff in January, and are awaiting a response to the appeal.

[Learn More](#)



## Hiking the AZT, Helping AWC

Avid outdoorsperson Adrian Adams is through-hiking the Arizona Trail, and he's helping AWC along the way! Adrian will donate 50% of all funds raised to support AWC's programs. If you'd like to learn more and support Adrian's hike, see his [Gofundme page](#).

[Learn More](#)



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## 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](#)

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## Galiuro Wilderness Trail Maintenance

(Rescheduled from January) Please join us for this special trail restoration event in the Galiuro Mountains Wilderness. This single-day event is part of a wilderness education experience with students from the Hayden-Winkelman middle school. These students will have two days of nature study prior to the trail restoration day. You're invited to join us, and to help foster a connection between our public lands and this next generation of conservationists.

[RSVP](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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**DONATE FOR A  
WILD ARIZONA**

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!



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