



Photo courtesy Bob Dyer

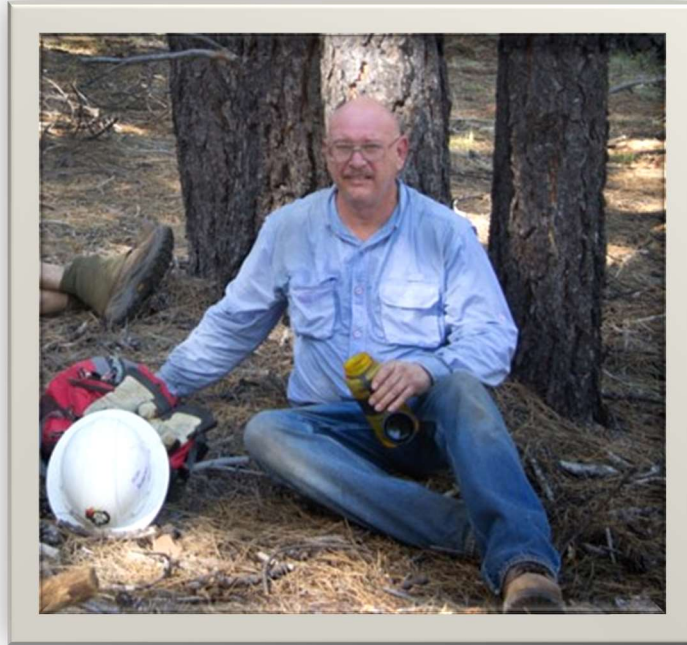
FRIENDS OF NORTHERN **ARIZONA FORESTS**

NEWSLETTER

June 2023

FoNAF Receives a Major Gift from Mike Anderson

By Bob Dyer



Mike Anderson, donor to FoNAF relaxing during a work day.

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests has received a very generous financial gift that will sustain our conservation projects for many years to come. The Board of Directors heard the details of the donation at the April 12, 2023 meeting when Mike Anderson personally announced the details of his gifting program he has established through the “Michael Anderson Charitable Fund.” The board was overwhelmed when hearing about the magnitude of this financial support and especially upon understanding funding will be sustaining annually well into the future.

Mike explained how the charitable fund was set up and that the purpose is to support defined conservation projects FoNAF undertakes. The funding, planned to be \$25,000.00 each year can be used for any wildlife or habitat project, approved by the Forest Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department as the protocols require.

FoNAF was chosen by Mike based on his knowledge of our accomplishments over the years, our “get it done” attitude in the field, and our dedication to preserving the forests

and protecting wildlife. Mike is well aware of our high work ethic and our commitment to completing every project with pride.

Mike has provided a brief statement about himself, his expectations, and some thoughts about why FoNAF was selected:

I was born in Flagstaff and have lived my entire life here in the shadow of the San Francisco Peaks. I was fortunate enough to have loving parents and siblings who loved the outdoors which led to hunting, fishing, and camping all those years. We lived out on Lake Mary Road, so I had the forest around our home as my playground. Whenever I travel away from home my heart always skips a beat when those peaks come into view.

I started working on water catchments in 2003 as a volunteer with the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society building new catchments on the Arizona Strip and joined the Arizona Elk Society around 2012. Roger Hailey asked me if I could help on a local catchment rehabbing the concrete apron and I've never stopped.

When I volunteered on these projects it seemed funding was always an issue and while hauling water over the last 10 years, I saw a huge need for rebuilding quality catchments. I've been very blessed in my life and saw an opportunity to help fund a little of this work and with the help of my family set up the Michael Anderson Charitable Fund, "My mission is to conserve and preserve the outdoors for all wildlife in Arizona by providing water and open range for all to use." I have worked side by side with FONAF volunteers and saw the commitment and dedication these volunteers brought to the projects and felt this was a great organization to support.

I have one thing to say to your members if you get the chance to volunteer on a project even if it's only for a day, do it the rewards and memories are well worth the minimal effort.

More specifically, his priorities for how the funds will be utilized are:

- Rebuilding or installing water catchment aprons
- Riparian meadow restorations
- Reconstructing trick tanks

Although these are at the top of his list, he indicated any conservation application where the health of wildlife and/or the forest will meet his expectations.

Needless to say, FoNAF is very grateful to Mike for his significant donation and for having confidence in us to make the most effective use of his financial support. A simple "Thank You" does not seem adequate. But as he said, "just seeing completed improvements to water catchments or any conservation project focusing on wildlife will be thanks enough."

FoNAF's Tom Mackin is The Arizona Daily Sun 2022 Citizen of the Year

By Bob Dyer and Dave Downes



Tom Mackin with his Arizona Daily Sun Citizen of the Year Award. Pictured (l-r) are Dave Downes, FoNAF Treasurer, Bob Dyer, FoNAF President, Tom Mackin, Matt Sommers, Coconino Forest, US Forest Service, and Colby Walton, Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Since 1961, *The Arizona Daily Sun* has honored fellow citizens as its “Outstanding Citizen of the Year.” Our own Tom Mackin was designated the winner in the male category for 2022. It is a very prestigious award in Flagstaff and one that Tom deserves for his service to our wildlife and forest resources. This prestigious award is based on nominations from FoNAF and Arizona Game and Fish as well as the Forest Service.

Tom has been an active (actually, a very active) member of FoNAF since 2010 and has volunteered more than twice as long for AZG&F. Tom served as president from 2013 until 2022, and much of our nomination was based on his outstanding leadership during this period when we evolved from primarily a forest user group to a hands-on team of

volunteers who contributed more than 5000 hours in 2022 in support of Forest Service projects.

Through Tom's leadership over the years FoNAF has experienced a 300% increase in volunteer hours spent on building new fences, clearing dangerous barbed wire fencing, and establishing water for wildlife by rebuilding water catchments.

Often overlooked is the other half of Tom's outdoor activities with AZ Game and Fish as a sustaining contributor in protecting wildlife. He has maintained the Pat Springs Pipeline on the north side of the peaks for many, many years. Also, building and repairing water catchments in northern Arizona falls on Tom's shoulders requiring significant time and expertise, which he freely gives.

Tom considers any day to be a good day if it's in the forest doing something productive. Even better is when he can join other members of the FoNAF team for the satisfaction of making solid contributions to the future of our amazing natural resources in the Flagstaff region that we can all enjoy.

Tom accepted the Outstanding Citizen of the Year award in his usual humble way and stated "I know I am flunking retirement, but I truly enjoy what I am doing and plan to continue as long as I am able". We all hope that will be a long time.

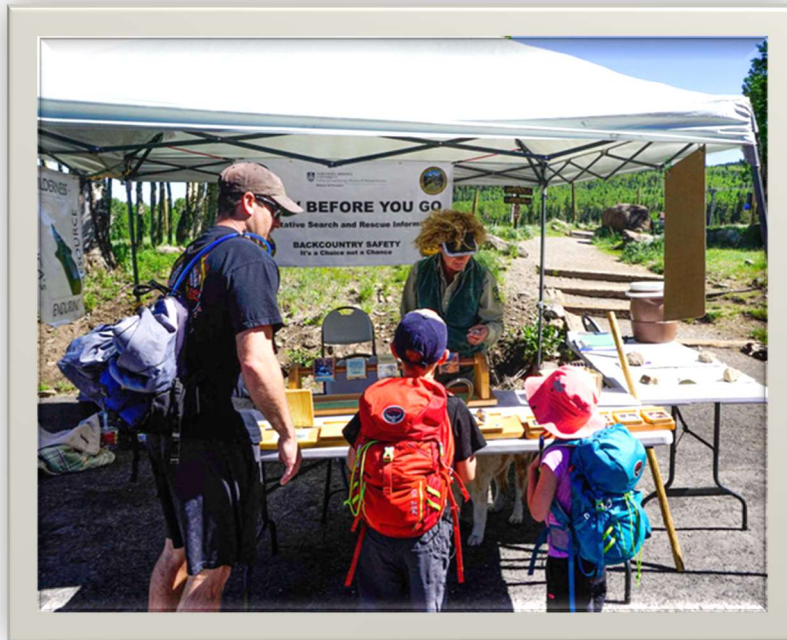


Every Day is a Good Day in the forest with FoNAF, even if you have to push Patty onto a trailer having two flat tires.

Photo courtesy Sue Priest

Trail Ambassadors and Preventative Search and Rescue - Friends of Northern Arizona Forest

By Bill Waters



Trail Ambassador providing information to a family of hikers.

Photo courtesy Bill Waters

Snow is still on Humphreys Peak, the tallest point in Arizona, but that did not deter hundreds of visitors and hikers from arriving at the Snowbowl Trail head on Memorial Day weekend to hike the three trails in the Kachina Wilderness. But that is nothing new for the Trail Ambassadors/Preventative Search and Rescue volunteers. They are there to provide information on the trail conditions, weather concerns, answer all manner of questions as well as provide information and safety assistance on the cleared portions of the trails. It's the beginning of another summer season on the most popular trails of the Kachina Wilderness.

The Aspen Trail, Kachina Trail and the Humphreys Peak trail draw thousands of visitors and they come from all over the world. Humphreys Peak trail may not be the most challenging hiking trail in the state, but at 12,633' elevation it is a magnet for those wanting to test their abilities and experience the vast views. Early morning hikers know that each weekend in spring, summer and fall hundreds will be on these trails so getting an early start is the best time to get going. At the same time, volunteers are heading up to the Trail Head at Snow Bowl to begin their day of providing needed and welcome forest and safety information.

It all began in 2015 when then Flagstaff Ranger District Trails and Recreation ranger Brian Poturalski, recognized that these trails were both a wonderful opportunity to provide information to visitors on forests in general, wilderness, and the Coconino National Forest in particular as well as reduce the risks of hiker/visitor injury or incident. He established a partnership with Dr. Marty Lee and her NAU Wildlife Management Class, Sergeant Aaron Dick of the Coconino County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue, and Friends of Northern Arizona Forests. The Trail Ambassadors and Preventative Search and Rescue program took shape and today the TA/PSAR volunteers continue every weekend from Memorial Day to the end of the Aspen color season in mid-October.

The TA/PSAR Volunteers come from all backgrounds, skills, experience and parts of the country. Some are "Camp Elden seasonal's" that can receive free camping for their motor homes or trailers at the small RV camp at the Flagstaff Ranger District office. Other volunteers are NAU Forestry students working to get a foot into the USFS system. Some are FoNAF members. Some are just interested in being a part of stewardship of our national public lands. All backgrounds can be found in the volunteers including retirees with PhD's in Economics, teachers, IT leaders, military retirees, even former USFS and NPS employees.

All of the volunteers self-select as to how they want to help. Trail Ambassadors staff the trail head to engage, inform and respond to visitors, "Meet and Greet", and provide directions and information. The questions seem endless sometimes: Are there bears here? How long will it take to hike to the peak? How were the mountains formed? Which way to the trails? and Why are these mountains sacred to the native Americans? But in addition, an important part of their duties is to evaluate a visitor to see if they are capable as well as equipped for their wilderness goals for the day. Do they have enough water, weather appropriate clothing, have they packed the ten essentials of survival, plus others. Also do they appear to be physically fit for their journey on that day? If that visitor does not appear either capable or adequately equipped then the TA politely engages them to help them make a good decision about the risks they may experience trying to meet their trail goals. Then if there is concern, the TA passes their observations on to the Preventative Search & Rescue Volunteers on the trail so that watchful eyes can be employed.

PSAR volunteers will find themselves on one of the three trails carrying extra water and some supplies that can be provided to needy visitors. PSAR volunteers are not emergency response specialists but do support Coconino County Sheriff's SAR and other first responders. PSAR is there on the trails to help visitors be safe and continue to make good decisions about their journey.

FoNAF has been and continues to be a proud sponsor, participant and partner in the Trail Ambassador/Preventative Search & Rescue program. Come get involved!

FoNAF Wins US Forest Service Southwest Regional “Enduring Service” Award

FoNAF was nominated for the 2021 “Enduring Service” award by Matt Sommer, Volunteer Coordinator for the Flagstaff District of the Coconino National Forest, and was given the award. This is an award given for work with the Forest Service and honors groups and individuals who have an ongoing commitment to the Forest Service and a history of "making a difference locally". Matt’s nomination letter states that: “This work, while rarely glamorous, is always completed with enthusiasm and produces quality results. It goes on to describe FoNAF’s efforts in building log worm fences building and maintaining aspen enclosures, cleaning up and recycling barbed wire fences, and improving fencing to enhance wildlife access and reduce the risk of injury for wildlife and livestock. Thanks to Matt for the nomination and congratulations to FoNAF for the award.



One truckload of the almost 6000 pounds of metal FoNAF has already recycled in 2023.

Photo courtesy Bob Dyer

FoNAF Board of Directors

Bob Dyer, President	Barry Brenneman	Dick Coast
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	Rob Vane	

Coconino National Forest information:

District Rangers: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/about-forest/offices>
Website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino/>

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests

Website: <http://www.friendsofnorthernarizonaforests.org/>