



FRIENDS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA FORESTS

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

President's Annual Statement

President Tom Mackin provided an overview of Friends of Northern Arizona Forests status and accomplishments for 2016 at the recent annual meeting on October 19.

From many perspectives he stated it has been a very good year for FoNAF, and he thinks we've again made many significant contributions to the Forest Service and northern Arizona forests in general. The number of projects completed and areas of involvement have continued from the upward trajectory established in 2015.



He recognized the continuing efforts of the Aspen Team to move toward more diversification in geographical and project interests beyond fences in the immediate Flagstaff forests. Examples he noted are assisting with pronghorn fence modifications, building log worm fences, wetlands preservation, expanding to the Mogollon Rim area for protection of sensitive riparian meadows, aspen regeneration along highway 180, and providing support to Ralph Baierlein with construction of experimental aspen sapling locations.

Tom feels these expanded opportunities are due in part to improved interface with the National Forest agencies we support. He expressed his appreciation to the Forest Service representative in attendance for providing trucks, UTV's, and equipment. Mark Nabel has done an outstanding job in acquiring crews to assist the Aspen Team.

Since FoNAF's founding in 2009 the Aspen Team has been the focal point of most activities, and 2016 was no exception. But Tom is also very pleased with the other two primary FoNAF activities:

- **Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR)** coordinated by Bill Waters, and
- **Back Country Permits** at the Snowbowl, coordinated by Dave Downes.

As he indicated, PSAR is an evolving effort in cooperation with the Forest Service and NAU that will be expanded next year to help more hikers and improve early awareness. Back Country Permits has been an ongoing service and will again be on FoNAF's agenda for this winter.

Tom highlighted other significant items and they are as follows:

- FoNAF contributed over **4000 volunteer hours** this year to a variety of events and projects. The Aspen Team exceeded 2000 hours and did them without an accident or injury.
- Treasury is very strong due to the Forest Service ability to provide surplus fencing and building materials, sharing tools, and receiving grant funds for propagation projects.
- Conversion of the Newsletter to computer generated and delivery tools also had a positive effect financially by saving around \$1200 in expenses.
- Although membership numbers have dropped, many of the new members are active volunteers in our outdoor projects and have helped to spread the load out.

In summary, Tom is very pleased with the organization, its membership, and our working relationship with the Forest Service. He's looking forward to another amazing year in 2017. He is very proud of what we achieved in 2016 and thanked everyone for all their time and effort in making 2016 so successful.



Membership Renewals Coming Soon

It's that time again!

Based on President Mackin's 2016 report above on the many activities FoNAF sponsored and completed, it is very important that you renew your membership so we can continue at this level of volunteering again in 2017. Your financial support is critical to this mission. And if you're not currently a member, please consider joining to help us maintain our strong treasury.

Renewal envelopes will be coming in your US mail soon. As in the past, please renew by completing the renewal form and sending it in with your check or by using PAYPAL available on our website.

As a reminder, here are the contribution levels:

- Ponderosa Supporter \$15
- Pinyon Club \$25
- Gambel Oak Circle \$50
- Aspen Society \$100 and above
- Student \$8



All membership levels apply to families as well as to individuals.

Help Issue Back Country Permits (and hang out in a bar)

As FoNAF volunteers take a break from outdoor projects during the winter months when fence building and trail head monitoring are on hold, we then issue back country hiking, skiing, and snowboarding permits at the Snowbowl.

The Forest Service requires anyone planning to venture outside the bounds of the Snowbowl to obtain a back country permit. On weekend and holiday mornings, 9:00-11:30, when the Snowbowl is open, FoNAF volunteers issue permits at the Agassiz Lodge lounge. Before issuing a permit, we provide the applicants with information on the dangers they face related to weather and avalanches, and on the essential equipment they should carry with them.

To volunteer you just need to be willing to commit a few weekend mornings; skiing or snowboarding experience is not required, nor do you need to have ever been outside the boundaries of the Snowbowl in winter. This is an opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people from all over the world. If you want more information or hopefully want to volunteer, contact:

Dave Downes, Back Country Permit Coordinator
dhdowes@gmail.com
928-522-9207

A SPECIAL REQUEST

Debra Crisp, Forest Botanist, Coconino National Forest has shared an alert for all of us to be aware of and assist her with. Below is her message we received asking for our assistance. She's included a link giving more information about the problem.

Dear FoNAF Members,

Please help me watch for Hall's milkweed in the Hart Prairie area. This particular milkweed has a range covering several states but has been collected only twice on the forest, once on Kendrick Mountain before the Pumpkin Fire and once in the Hart Prairie area. If you see it, please let me know and take pictures if you can.

<http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=Asclepias+hallii&formsubmit=Search+Terms>

Thanks!



Annual Election of Officers and Board Members

At the Annual Meeting on October 19, 2016, elections were held for officers and board members.

Officers:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chairman Dave Downes recommended the following slate of officers that had agreed to serve in their respective office for another term:

- President, Tom Mackin;
- Vice President, Marty Lee;
- Treasurer, Dave Downes; and
- Secretary, Bob Dyer.

The board voted unanimously for approval.

Board Members:

David Downes, chairman for the 2016 nominating committee, said voting was done via email and there were no write in candidates. 60% of the current membership voted.

By a vote of the membership, the six candidates Ralph Baierlein, Ed Clark, Bruce Belman, Dave Hall, Bill Kluwin, and Marty Lee were unanimously approved for another term.

Friend of Northern Arizona Forests

Mission Statement:

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests is dedicated to assisting the United States Forest Service in maintaining, protecting, and restoring the natural and cultural resources and the scenic beauty of our forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. We are a solution-oriented volunteer group that works in partnership with the Forest Service to assist the Service in tasks it does not have the staff or the funds to accomplish on its own. In addition, we seek to connect the community and the Forest Service to the benefit of both parties and of the forest itself.

FoNAF Board of Directors

Tom Mackin, President
Marty Lee, Vice President
Bob Dyer, Secretary
Dave Downes, Treasurer

Ralph Baierlein
Pam Baldwin
Bruce Belman
Ed Clark
Tony DeCou

Dave Hall
Bill Kluwin
Curt Knight
Anthony Quintile
Bill Waters