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President's Message

Dear Friends,

As the days grow longer and the temperatures continue to rise, I hope all of you are looking forward to getting out and recreating in our Wasatch Mountain State Park. I have already begun to see some of you hiking and mountain biking on the trails, and golfing on the Lakes course. I guess one "silver lining" in the fact that it was a very low snow year, is that the trails are drying out (the ones at Dutch Hollow are quite a bit dryer right now than the ones near the Visitor's Center), and the courses are opening up much earlier than normal. So get out and enjoy these "bonus weeks" before the heat of summer arrives!

We have a Members picnic planned for June 13, and we will be publishing our schedule of summer hikes and trail maintenance days later this month. Keep an eye on our web site (www.friendsofwasatch.org) for an exciting schedule of events and please keep in mind that we cannot pull these events off successfully without volunteers to help with the planning and execution, so I hope you will consider donating even just a few hours of your time as events are announced and volunteers are requested.

Warm Regards,
Tami Brown

The Mission of Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park is to preserve and protect the historical and ecological integrity of Wasatch Mountain State Park through public awareness and education and to promote the development of responsible recreational opportunities and facilities for present and future generations.

Come to a Beach Party on Saturday, June 13th 6–9

PM. This year's Membership Picnic will again be held at the Springer Hollow Pavilion but with a Beach Party twist, complete with a DJ to play beach music as well as any other oldies but goodies we want. So wear your beach party garb and dancing sandals for a fun evening with your old and, hopefully, some new Friends. Members are welcome to invite friends or family to introduce them to FOW.

FOW will provide appetizers, grilled burgers & brats, water & soft drinks and all the paper products and utensils. All attendees are asked to bring your specialty side dish (A-O) or dessert (P-Z) enough for eight for pot-luck.

To cover our costs and perhaps raise a few dollars for the Park, each member is asked to contribute \$15 and non-members \$20. (Incentive: any non-member who joins that evening will get a rebate of \$5 to the member rate!)

Each attendee will receive a free door prize ticket for a drawing of fun prizes.

As always, these events don't happen by magic, so please volunteer now if you can help with the preparations. Get first pick of "opportunities" to help out.

Fred Paxton, Membership Director 805.750.8773 (cell) vtagrpa@hotmail.com



Welcome New Members

Gary & Terra Crews
 Norm & Kathy Crockett
 Bob & Kathy Haworth
 Dave & Bea Moore
 Betsy Risner
 Joy Rocklin
 Mike & Taryn Tezak
 Michele White
 Alyce Weisiger
 Karen Ye



PLEASE RECYCLE

Now that Spring is here, we hope everyone's thoughts are turning to getting out into the great outdoors. Of course that takes trails and of course that takes some effort to build and maintain those trails. With that in mind we hope you will volunteer for some rewarding community service and great exercise at a Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park and Wasatch Trails Alliance trail day. All trail days meet on **Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm** and tools are provided. Always bring water, sunscreen and gloves. Here are the plans:

May 9th- River View—Meet at the UVU Campus off Highway 40

June 6th- National Trails Day- WOW— meet at the Phosphate Trail Head in Pine Canyon, one mile up from the camp grounds and the turn off to the golf course.

July 11th- WOW

August 8th- WOW

Sept. 12th- To be determined



If anyone wants an alternative they could meet at the Visitors Center to work on the landscaping on all trails days. We could make sure there are some tools there to help spruce up the entrance area. Please let us know ahead so we can make arrangements.

Mark your calendars for the grand WOW Trail Ribbon Cutting Event **September 19**. We are planning a big celebration.

Don Taylor, Trails Director
 435 503-4701 dtutah@gmail.com

Hit 'n Giggle FUNdraiser

Once again our major fundraising event will be the popular Hit 'n Giggle Golf FUNdraiser. Golfers and non-golfers alike love this outing where actual golfing skills are not a necessity. The desire to support our Wasatch Mountain State Park while having a fun afternoon in our wonderful valley followed by dinner and some entertainment with the opportunity to bid on some great silent auction items is the only requirement.

On **Thursday, August 20th** participants will check at **3:30** to be ready for the 4:30 shotgun start. Teams of 6 will tackle 9 holes of fun "games" on the Soldier Hollow Golf Course before returning to the clubhouse for a buffet dinner and awards ceremony. Please mark your calendar!

There are many ways to contribute: you may sign up for the outing and/or dinner; you may sponsor a hole (at several donation levels) or donate an item for the silent auction. We are already rounding up some great items, but would gladly accept additional ones, so please let me know if you have something to contribute. Another way to contribute is to volunteer to serve on the committee.

Last year our generous members and guests contributed \$11,000 toward construction of a fishing station for the kids at the Park's pond. Combined with other funding sources and grants, the Park has the money to begin construction of the fishing station shortly. Details of the project FOW plans to support appear on the Hit 'n Giggle event flyer, coming soon.

Mickey Oksner, Event Chairperson
 281.687.5244 (cell) micksmeister@earthlink.net

FOW Board

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Avalanche Awareness Presentation

Over 40 people attended the free Avalanche Awareness class presented by the Utah Avalanche Center and sponsored in part by Drew from Midway Adventures and the Friends of Wasatch. Following a presentation the participants went outdoors for a demonstration of what equipment to have and how to search for a victim. The picture with the circle drawn out in the snow showed how to use a beacon to find someone buried. Four groups, each at opposite end of each other moved in a circular motion to find the buried beacon in the middle of the circle. The exercise teaches students how the beacon works in a grid fashion and how to successfully search to find someone quickly.

The picture with the guy with what looks like a back pack is demonstrating the newest technology for saving someone's life if they get caught in an avalanche. The backpack serves to float you, hopefully on top of an avalanche, and if you get caught and buried it allows room for air to breathe and a tube you breathe into so the carbon monoxide you exhale goes away from your body.

Thanks to Drew from Midway Adventures for donating a jacket and gloves for the door prize drawing.



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Partnering to keep you safe in the outdoors!



WATCHING THE WASATCH Park Staff Report

WMSP Numbers

Visitor Center 8 am-5 pm daily (435) 654-1791
Campground (435) 654-3961
Reservations (800) 322-3770
Wasatch Golf Course (435) 654-0532
Soldier Hollow Golf Course (435) 654-7442

Become a FRIEND of Wasatch Mountain State Park
Membership Information
www.friendsofwasatchmsp.org
PO Box 727
Midway, UT 84049

Come PLAY today at Wasatch Mountain State Park! Begin unraveling your senses by visiting us at www.stateparks.utah.gov or call 877-UTPARKS

I think we skipped winter this year and went from fall to spring to summer. But what a gorgeous time to be outside in the park.

We had a fairly quiet winter due to the mild weather. We started renting cross-country skis and the golf course trails were open for about 2 weeks. Snowshoeing was slow except for the first FOW moonlight hike.

Things are gearing up now with the nice spring/summer weather. I am working on the summer program schedule and would like to get some feedback from the members. We are thinking about starting a **hiking club**. Please email me some feedback on if you would join a hiking club, what days and times you would like to hike, how often and would there be a benefit to joining the club?

The other program I would like some feedback on is the Utah Master Naturalist Class. The 40 hour course costs \$200. I have taught the Watersheds and Mountains modules at Wasatch. My goal for the next class is to educate local people about the local ecosystem because WMSP is such a community park. If the people using the park learn about it they will feel ownership of it and in return take

care of it in a sustainable way to preserve it for future generations. I think the class is great and I love teaching it. If you would like a participant's perspective you can ask Cary Hobbs. He has taken both modules and is very excited about it.

Since it is a 40 hour class the Master Naturalist class is time intensive, but at least 70% of the time is spent outside in the park. So my question is... are you interested in taking the class? If so would you like a Mon-Fri class for 8 hours/day, once a month for 6 hours on Saturday for 6 months, or 6 weeks of 2 hours on Thurs night and 6 hrs on Saturday in the spring or fall?

Please let me know what your interest is in these programs. If you are not interested at all, that is fine, I would just like to know. If there are other classes that you would be more interested in you can let me know that too.

I will be getting the summer hiking and program schedule out soon so I hope to see you at some of the programs or out on the trails.

Your Naturalist,
Kathy Donnell

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- April 22 - Earth Day. Go OUTSIDE!
- April 24-25 - Ultimate Outdoor Expo - Heber
- May10 - Mother's Day hike. 10 am. Bring your mom
- May 23 - Birds of Prey program 7 pm in the Pine Creek Campground Amphitheater
- May 24 - Intro to Geocaching at 1pm in the Pine Creek Campground Amphitheater
- May 30 - Special Needs Fishing Day 10am-1pm
- June 6 - Free Fishing Day- No license needed

Content Not Quite Right?
For newsletter corrections
Please contact:
friendsofwasatchmsp@gmail.com

Friends' Activities

Where did he go?! (And where did our snow go?)



Gee, what is that on his back?

Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes

Though Mother Nature didn't provide a lot of snow this season we held 2 successful Full Moon Snowshoe hikes. Kathy sends notices of our activities to her list of media outlets and this year KSL.com picked up the announcement. Indeed, so many people called to reserve their spot that we had to cut off reservations for the second hike!

We learned a lesson for future hikes though as there were a lot of "no-shows". Fortunately these didn't result in any of our limited supply of rental equipment being unused. The hoped-for third hike on March 6th was cancelled due to the lack of snow.

Thanks to all the participants in our Full Moon Snow Shoe events, we raised over **\$1300** toward projects for the Park!

Hiking With Your Friends

Our first organized hike of the season is the Mothers' Day hike on May 10th, as shown in Kathy's schedule. Along with the hiking club idea, Kathy and I are contemplating some hikes with an educational twist, such as having a geologist or other expert accompany us and present information on our surroundings or area history. As we nail down dates and locations we will send the information to our members via email and post it on our website, www.friendsofwasatch.org. If you can help with any hikes, please let me know.

Mickey Oksner, Activities Director
281.687.5244 (cell) micksmeister@earthlink.net





Picnic Time

Betty Lesnevich and Tami Paxton have graciously offered to host two BYO picnics this summer. Please bring your own food and beverage and join your Friends. No doubt some fun activity will be planned.

Thursday, July 16th we will meet at the Soldier Hollow Chalet grounds at 6:00 and then on Saturday, September 26 we go to the Huber Grove Harvest Site at 6:00. We will provide directions to the sites as the dates approach.

You may reach Betty at 973 932-2385 or gblesevich@msn.com or Tami at 805 750-8774 or vtagrma@hotmail.com for more information or to offer your help with set-up or activities.

More Honors for Nancy O'Toole

In addition to being Volunteer of the Year for FOW, Nancy was honored as the 2014 Volunteer of the Year by the Utah Society for Environmental Education. Nancy has been instrumental in the grant writing program at our park over the last 3 years, but in 2014 she researched, wrote and was awarded 7 grants from a variety of organizations including DWR, Parks and Rec, Utah Division of Arts and Museums, TreeUtah and Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative. These grants have enabled us to continue the youth fishing and nature club, create a geology brochure, create interpretive panels at the historic Huber Grove, protect displays from sun in the visitor center, plant trees in the campgrounds, provide activities at the watershed festival and buy and install a fish cleaning station at the pond.

The total amount Nancy acquired through grants and matching money is close to \$200,000.

Not only has Nancy found money for the programs but she teaches many of the programs as a volunteer. Nancy doesn't fish herself, but has been helping with the Youth Fishing Club for 2 years. Nancy is a Utah Master Naturalist and now co-teaches the program at the Park. Nancy is fun, energetic, and has a passion for teaching about geology and managing our public lands. Nancy is very knowledgeable about current environmental issues and has a knack for interpreting those issues to the public in a way they can understand.

Nancy volunteered almost 300 hours of her time to the park in 2014. I know Nancy enjoys volunteering and teaching people how to care for the environment but I want her to know how much she has added to my life and job by being a friend and partner in creating programs that touch people's lives and make them aware of our precious natural resources.

Kathy Donnell, Park Naturalist



Reminder from the Membership Department...

Hope you all have taken the opportunity to enjoy our park this Spring. The weather has been beautiful and the park is calling. Many events are planned and several hikes are imminent. Come join us. We are well into our new year and most have renewed their membership. We thank you for joining us again for 2015. We encourage those who have not renewed to do so now. Not sure if you did? Call or email me.

Dues are: single \$25, couple \$40 and family \$50. Please complete a new membership form, also attached to this newsletter, so we have accurate contact and interest information. Renewal checks and membership forms can be mailed to: Friends of Wasatch PO Box 727 Midway, UT 84049

Fred Paxton, Membership Director
805.750.8773 (cell) vtagrpa@hotmail.com