

## 2017 Meet the Monument – Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

*Meet the Monument* will be held from 8:00AM to 2:00PM at the base of Ragged Top. Participants should dress appropriately, as all activities take place outside. Please bring water, snacks, and lunch. *The Friends of Ironwood Forest* provide seating for the speaker's tent, extra water, and port-a-potties on site.

7:30 AM Registration opens

8:00 AM Hikers meet with hike leaders

8:30 AM Walkabouts and Hike

**Nature walkabout featuring botany and geology** - with Ries Lindley (Arizona Native Plant Society), Bill Peachey (U of A), and Rachel Feuerbach (U fo A). Gentle, flat terrain – suitable for almost every adventurer.

**Desert Photography walkabout** - Photography with Allan Morgan (National Geographic). Gentle, flat terrain – suitable for almost every adventurer.

**6K hike (about 4 miles) – Note: this hike meets at Marana Airport NOT at the MTM Ragged Top Site.** Drew Milsom (UofA) Hike Leader - Come and visit the Elephant Trees at the base of Waterman Mountain. Just under 4 miles with 650 elevation gain. Moderate to slightly difficult hike following old steep mining road in the Waterman Mountains to the Elephant Trees and other botanical fun.

This hike will meet at the Marana Airport. Be there by 8:30am. Also bring your high clearance vehicle if you have one. High clearance vehicles are needed for the stretch between Avra Valley Road and the trail head. Car pools will be formed at the airport. Return to airport between 2 and 3pm. **Advance registration is required. Number of hikers is limited. Be sure to call and register!**

**Speakers:** Individuals are also available at the "Meet the Speakers" table for additional questions and answers before, and/or after, their presentations.

9:00 AM *National Conservation Lands*, with Ken Mahoney, Bureau of Land Management. Ken will discuss the many resources of The Monument that are open for your next adventure and learning experience in this pristine Sonoran Desert environment. Also, the relationship of National Conservation Lands to National Public Lands.

10:00 AM *Bighorn Sheep of The Ironwood Forest*, with Joe Sheehey, Bighorn Sheep Society. Joe's broad and lengthy experience provides a unique opportunity to learn about this iconic species.

11:00 AM *Saguaros Extraordinaire*, with Bill Peachey, professional geologist and saguaro authority. Bill's desert background and study of the Saguaro provide a rare occasion to learn of the Saguaro's unique association with the desert.

12:00 PM *The Titan Missile Era*, with Dick Kampa, 390<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing Memorial Association. The dedication of the Titan II Missile Interpretive Site on The Monument was in November 2016. Dick provides a unique perspective and history of this era from his years supporting these sites and the Titan II Mission.

1:00 PM (both morning walkabouts repeat)

Nature walkabout featuring botany and geology - with Ries Lindley, Bill Peachey, and Rachel Feuerbach,

Desert Photography walkabout - Photography with Allan Morgan, National Geographic

**Also** - information tables throughout the day include:

BLM - answering questions and discussing the many resources and archeological districts of The Monument and will also provide information about current and future plans including Resource Management Plan Implementation, and The Transportation Management Plan.

Gary Borax – has hiked the trails, and off the trails, of southern Arizona for many years. He will speak to you about his experiences, provide hiking advice, as well as field specific inquiries about hiking within The Monument using maps and routes he has created using GPS tracks from his previous hikes.

John Scheuring - Arizona Native Plant Society, will provide background and information related to the Waterman Restoration Site and will discuss and answer questions related to control of invasive species in The Monument and throughout Southern Arizona.

Friends of Ironwood Forest – will be answering questions about The Monument in general and the Friends mission, membership, and volunteer activity opportunities.

**Questions?** Email The Friends of Ironwood Forest – [info@ironwoodforest.org](mailto:info@ironwoodforest.org)