

## Ironwood Forest National Monument Hike the Monument, 2018!!

The **FRIENDS OF IRONWOOD FOREST** invites you to join us for **Hike the Monument (HTM)** on **Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**. You are welcome to choose from the following activities to explore and experience first-hand the wonders found in the Ironwood Forest National Monument. This event is conducted in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Native Plant Society, University of Arizona faculty and Old Pueblo Archaeology Center.

Briefly, we have three outings planned this year (detailed description follows below):

1. **Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District (**  
*This hike is FULL. We suggest you sign up for the Nature Hike.*
2. **Waterman Mountain, Elephant Trees Botanical Hike**  
*This hike is FULL. We suggest you sign up for the Nature Hike.*
3. **Nature Hike, Sonoran Desert Botany, Geology and Cacti** – easy terrain, family oriented **FUN and EDUCATIONAL WALK** to view and learn about the life and history of the Sonoran Desert. This hike has 4, **FOUR**, EXPERT leaders with decades of **EXPERIENCE** and the ability to relate to **YOU!**

**PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY!** (just in case you missed it) **PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY!**

The **NATURE WALK** will accommodate **EVERYONE** interested in a **LEISURELY FAMILY ORIENTED WALK** on easy desert terrain.

Please let us know the hike you'd like to go on and the number of folks you are bringing. We will send you a confirmation email letting you know if you are on the hike roster or on a wait list. Cocoraque Butte and the Waterman Elephant Tree Hikes require high clearance vehicles. Please let us know if you are signing up for one of these two hikes, have a high clearance vehicle, and are willing to drive to the trail head carrying some additional hikers.

Please remember to dress in layers, appropriate for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, lunch, and your camera (binoculars are also very helpful). There are no restrooms or other facilities available on the hikes. Restrooms **ARE** available at the Marana Airport before we leave for our respective trail heads.

**NOVEMBER 10th**, all hikes will meet at the Marana Regional Airport at 11700 W Avra Valley Road. The Marana Airport is located 5 miles WEST of the I-10 and Avra Valley Road, exit 242.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

7:30 – 8:00am sign in

8:00 – 8:30am briefing

8:30 – 9:00am car pools form up and depart

Expect that hikes will complete no later than **2pm** and return to the airport by **3pm**. The Marana Regional Airport is at 11700 W Avra Valley Rd, 5 miles west of the I-10 and Avra Valley Road exit 242. Restrooms are available in the Marana Airport Operations building. Detailed descriptions:

- 1. Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District Hike.** Join Allen Dart, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, accompanied by Lin and Gordon Hanson, Saguaro National Park West Environmental Educational Ranger and Archaeology Preservation Volunteer, on this educational hike. Cocoraque Butte is one of the sites offering abundant rock art and other archaeological objects of scientific interest within the Monument. Humans have inhabited the area for more than 13,000 years. At least 150 sites from the prehistoric Hohokam period (ca. A.D. 650-1450) are recorded in the area. Expect unusual petroglyphs that you may not have seen before and **bring your camera and/or binoculars**. Also, expect moderate rocky terrain on this hike. The trek from the parking area to the petroglyph sites is a relatively flat and easy hike. Getting up to the petroglyphs is challenging for some hikers because you need to scramble up and around boulders and bedrock on a 120-foot-high butte to see many of the petroglyphs. You must be in good physical condition to go on the hike. Pack water (one to two quarts), snacks, lunch and sunscreen. Don't forget your **hat** and **camera**.
- 2. Waterman Mountain Elephant Tree Botanical Hike.** This is an adventurous and fun, moderate to difficult, hike that covers about 3.5 miles round trip, walking on loose rocks in steep terrain. Accumulated elevation gain is about 650 ft. High-clearance vehicles are needed for this hike and carpooling is available. Drew Milsom, University of Arizona, is leading this hike. We hike an old steep mining road in the Waterman Mountains to find the Elephant Trees and endangered Nichols Turks Head Cactus. The Waterman's are a rare limestone uplift in the Sonoran Desert. There are lots of great plants to discuss along the way, as well as opportunities to view the unique geology of the mountains. You will also see evidence of the mining conducted in the Waterman's. Pack water, snacks, lunch and sunscreen. Don't forget your **hat** and **camera and/or binoculars**.
- 3. Nature Hike.** An easy paced 3 mile (or so) hike. Learn the natural wonders of the Sonoran Desert and about the geologic and topographic variability that contributes to the area's high biological diversity. Walk along with naturalist and botanist Ries Lindley and co-leaders Bill Thornton (the cacti know him by name),

Bill Peachey, geologist and Saguaro specialist and Rachel Feuerbach, U of A geologist. This is a family oriented nature hike, children are welcome. High clearance vehicles are not required for this hike. The Nature Hike generally ends well before 2pm. Pack water, snacks, lunch and sunscreen. Don't forget your **hat** and **camera**. **There is no limit to what you may learn, how much fun you can have learning it or the number of hikers!!**

**To sign up for a hike** – send an email message to [info@ironwoodforest.org](mailto:info@ironwoodforest.org) or leave a message at [520-628-2092](tel:520-628-2092), this is an unattended number, be sure to leave a message, we **WILL** get back to you!.

**Worth repeating:**

**The number of participants for Cocoraque Butte and the Waterman Elephant Tree Hikes are limited, sign up early!**

Please specify which hike you would like to sign up for, the number of folks with you, and whether or not you have a high-clearance vehicle and are willing to drive to the hike starting point.

All hikes will meet up at the Marana Airport on Avra Valley Road between 7:30 and 8:00 am on Saturday, November 10th. We expect to be done hiking no later than 2 pm and to return to the airport by 3 pm. The Marana Airport is located 5 miles West of I-10 and Avra Valley Road, exit 242.

Please remember to dress in layers, appropriate for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, lunch, and your camera. There are no restrooms or other facilities within the Monument. Some roads are not maintained.