



Friends of Ironwood Forest

738 N. 5th Ave. Suite 114, Tucson, AZ 85705 520-628-2092 www.ironwoodforest.org

Friends of Ironwood Forest works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archaeological, and historical resources and values for which the Ironwood Forest National Monument was established through education, community outreach, service projects, and advocacy.



Ironwood Forest National Monument, Arizona, View of Ragged Top
Bureau of Land Management, www.blm.gov/nlcs

Friends of Ironwood Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Invite You

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Free Tour of the Ironwood Forest National Monument

Spend a day in one of southern Arizona's most treasured landscapes as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Throughout the tour, BLM speakers and resource specialists will share the history and cultural heritage within the Monument, as well as highlight the diverse vegetation and wildlife surrounding the Ironwood trees, for which the Monument was named. Transportation is being provided free of charge.

Limited seats available; please **RSVP by March 8** to:

Lahsha Brown
Friends of Ironwood Forest
lahsha@ironwoodforest.org
520-628-2092

RSVP on-line at
www.ironwoodforest.org

8 a.m. – Meet at Cortaro Rd. & I-10 Park and Ride Lot. Exit 246

9:30 a.m. – Visit base of Ragged Top

11:30 a.m. – Depart for lunch and desert hike.

12 p.m. – Lunch (Bring your own), then **desert hike or** drive to historic **Silver Bell Cemetery** (45 minute drive).

3:30 p.m. – Arrive at Cortaro Rd. & I-10 Park & Ride.

Transportation from Park & Ride will be provided.

From Tucson, take I-10 west. Take exit 246 and turn west (left) at N. Cortaro Rd. Your first right enters into the McDonald's parking lot and the park and ride.



Photo: ASDM, Mark A. Dimmitt

The Sinkable Ironwood

Our namesake, the Ironwood tree, is so heavy and dense it actually sinks in water! Ironwood trees' geographical distribution closely matches that of the Sonoran Desert, the only place in the world where they are found, growing primarily in washes and valleys.

The Ironwood is an extremely slow-growing member of the legume family. As one of the largest and longest living Sonoran Desert plants, it reaches up to 45 feet in height and can live 800 to 1200 years.

Ironwood trees play a critical role in the lives of over 640 other species of plants and animals in the Sonoran Desert! It is a habitat modifying keystone species, meaning it has a strong and ecologically important tie to the distribution and abundance of these associated species.

The tree creates a mini habitat for many animals, plants, insects and birds, which feed on its seeds, rest in its shade and find shelter from predators in its thorny branches. It is known as a nurse plant, providing a safe place for seed

germination and protecting saplings from the damaging effects of the desert sun and extreme cold. The low hanging branches protect the young saguaro cacti, night blooming cereus, some wild flowers and other desert plants from browsing animals.

Ironwood trees are threatened by increasing human populations in the Sonoran Desert. Urban development and the associated recreational impacts fragment the landscape and isolate smaller and smaller stands of these trees from one another. The removal of Ironwood trees decreases the number and type of other plants and animals found in an area.

Ironwood Forest National Monument was established to protect the highest density of Ironwood trees recorded in the Sonoran Desert. These 129,000 acres (almost 300 square miles) encompass several desert mountain ranges including the Silver Bell, Waterman, and Sawtooth ranges, and the iconic Ragged Top Mountain. The Monument also contains a significant system of cultural and historical sites covering a 5,000-year period.

The Arizona State Museum has an on-line exhibit of the history of the Silver Bell Mining Complex. Funding for this exhibit was provided by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Vignettes in Time Collection.

http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/exhibits/blm_vignettes/projects_silverbell.shtml

Be Inspired!

Don't miss the inspiring story and stunning images of "*The National Parks: America's Best Idea*"; a six-episode series directed by Ken Burns and written and co-produced by Dayton Duncan. Filmed over the course of more than six years at some of nature's most spectacular locales – from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska.

It is the story of an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone.

A fascinating history told through lively personal stories. It reminds me why we work so hard every day to protect Ironwood Forest National Monument. More information is available at www.pbs.org/nationalparks.

Lahsha Brown,
Executive Director

Welcome to Friends of Ironwood Forest!

We're a small (for now) group of local folks who care about the Ironwood Forest National Monument, just west of Tucson and Marana. We care about the place and, if you're reading this, you probably do too.

This is an exciting time. The Ironwood Forest National Monument celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year! It is part of the National Landscape Conservation System—which also celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

Friends of Ironwood Forest and the Bureau of Land Management are planning a series of celebration events--hikes and field trips, special guest speakers, some surprises--take a look through this newsletter and on our website for details and times and locations.

The Ironwood Forest National Monument is a special place in

southern Arizona. Ragged Top Mountain may be the iconic landmark, but there are quiet little places of beauty - petroglyphs, Desert Bighorn sheep, javalina, Gila woodpeckers, saguaros, wild flowers, and, of course, Ironwood trees. It's a place to enjoy, to hike, to research, to camp, to picnic, to photograph--and to preserve for future generations.

That's why the Friends of Ironwood Forest has formed. Please join us. Please share this newsletter with others. Please come to an event as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Monument designation.

Please join as a member of Friends of Ironwood Forest (see back page for details). And if you have a special story or special attachment to this special place, or a special desire to do more to preserve it, please email or call us.

*- Mike Quigley,
Board President
Friends of Ironwood Forest*

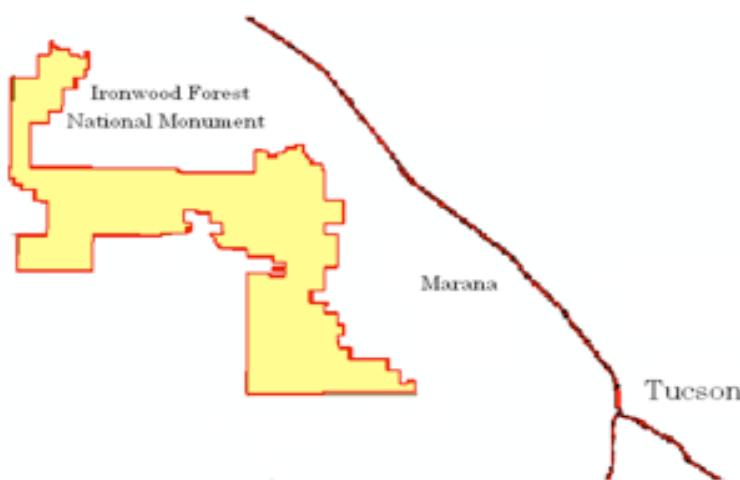


Photo:
ASDM,
Mark A.
Dimmitt

Calendar of Events

March 20 - 10th Anniversary Celebration Public Tours Ironwood Forest National Monument

March 27 – 10th Anniversary Celebration Service Projects Ironwood Forest National Monument

May 15 – Ironwood Festival at the Tucson Audubon Society Mason Center

Mark your calendar!

June 5 – 10th Anniversary Celebration of Ironwood Forest National Monument and National Landscape Conservation System

Heritage Highlands at Dove Mountain

Dr. Gary Paul Nabhan
Keynote Speaker





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Yes! I would like to support
Friends of Ironwood Forest
by becoming a member!

\$15.00 _____

\$35.00 _____

\$75.00 _____

\$135.00 _____

\$275.00 _____

I want to give more!

Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Ironwood Forest
738 N. 5th Avenue, Suite 114
Tucson, AZ 85705

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____



Thank you to all the wonderful
volunteers and who contribute their time
to protect the Ironwood Forest National
Monument. More opportunities are coming up in March as we celebrate the
Monument's 10th Anniversary. No previous experience is necessary – won't you
join us Saturday, March 27, for a special day of service projects!
More information is available on our web site www.ironwoodforest.org or call
us at 520-628-2092.

*Beat Back Buffelgrass Day Volunteers at the base of
Ragged Top Feb. 6, 2010*

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