



Hello Friends!

Here's quick update on what is happening in the world of the Friends and out at the Ironwood National Monument!

Thank you so much to all who responded to our successful June membership appeal! We are honored to have your trust and faith and will continue to earn both. If you have not sent in your membership donation yet please consider doing so. Thank you, again.

Coming Soon: Pay Pal will be the vehicle the Friends will use to accept on-line donations through our website. In the past we have also used Network for Good, however due to the cost of this service the board decided to switch. Pay Pal is just as easy to use, takes all major credit cards and may even offer more options for regular periodic donations.

Alert: The Friends have gone on record as opposing an alignment of the proposed I-11 through Avra Valley. The route is not yet set in stone, and the Arizona Department of Transportation is beginning a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study to identify a Selected Corridor Alternative between Nogales and Wickenburg, Arizona. Adding to the negative impacts of a 4-lane highway through Avra Valley, the environmental impact study area includes parts of the Ironwood Forest. This was learned at the public meeting held in Marana just a few weeks ago. We are concerned for the health of the Ironwood and all the treasures contained therein.

Good news! A rare Nichol's Turk's-Head cactus has been discovered at the Waterman Restoration Site within the Ironwood Forest. It is listed as endangered in Arizona, but this shows that this species can thrive under the right conditions. Many volunteer hours worth of restoration in this area have played a role in establishing those conditions.

Thanks to support from the Conservation Lands Foundation, the Friends' website, IronwoodForest.Org, will soon have a new hosting service, providing up-to-date security for the contents of the site and those of us who use it.

Save the dates – nothing firm yet, but stay tuned:

Hike the Monument: Hikes of varying levels of difficulty and interest are being planned for Saturday, November 5.

National Public Lands Day: This year various organizations in Arizona and other warm places will participate on Saturday, December 10. We will have several volunteer activities at the Monument, planned in coordination with the BLM.

Thank you for caring about the Ironwood Forest National Monument!

- your Board of Directors