



FRIENDS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA FORESTS

NEWSLETTER

July 2017

Aspen Team Branches Out to New Projects

The Aspen Team has developed a stellar reputation for their expertise in building and repairing aspen exclosures (fences). Not so these days.

Their aspen fence expertise is still intact, but the team has taken on a variety of projects at the request of the Forest Service expanding their scope into many diverse areas. The Aspen Team has accomplished these projects so well that future assignments will keep the team's challenges interesting.

Below are brief summaries of the expanded types of projects the Aspen Team has completed recently:



“Trick Tank” replacement

And now you're probably wondering what a trick tank is. It consists of a very large “apron” made of corrugated metal or concrete on the ground that catches rain and snow melt, pipes the water into a large storage tank, and then feeds the fresh water into large tubs or “drinkers” for wildlife to drink during the hot summer months. Eventually parts wear out due to the harsh environment, and the apron is usually the first to go.

Under the supervision of President Tom Mackin, who is the trick tank expert for Arizona Game and Fish, the Aspen Team replaced an old damaged apron this spring. It was a multi-day process with material staging, building, and then cleanup.

The team did an excellent job, as expected, and now has a new skill set for future tank rebuilds. Below are the “before, during, and after” photos of the “Mike’s Trick Tank” project.



Log worm fence building

A fence building technique seen around Flagstaff has become a new skill for the Aspen Team, and a welcome change from fences around exclosures. The picture shows a recent build near Babbitt Springs south of Mormon Lake.

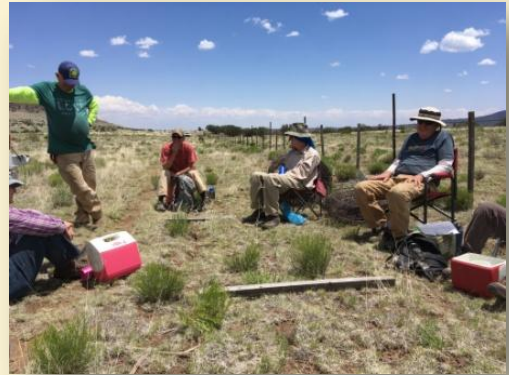
Members agreed it was nice to look down to build a fence rather than up, as required for aspen exclosures.



Pronghorn antelope migration

Modifying range fences has entered into the Aspen Team's areas of interest. At the request of Cary Thompson, Wildlife Biologist for the Flagstaff RD, the team has spent many hours north of the peaks modifying cattle fencing to make it pronghorn friendly.

Existing fences have four barbed wires, and since pronghorn go under fences the lowest wire is dangerous for them and a deterrent for herd movement. By removing that bottom wire and replacing it with a smooth wire the problem is resolved.



Removing old fencing

It seems contrary to the team's mission, but taking down old fences is necessary to keep the forests safe for wildlife and humans. As aspen trees mature inside an enclosure, the fence is no longer purposeful and becomes a hazard. So it is prudent to remove it.

In addition, old fenced sites such as the historic NAU nursery extension at Leroux Springs near the Snow Bowl have old barbed wire lying on the ground. It needed to be removed to assure a safe location for visitors. The Aspen Team has become skilled doing these removals and recycling the old fencing.

Riparian protection

Protecting riparian fields and meadows from over grazing has also become a new skill set. At the request of FS hydrologist Tom Runyon, the Aspen Team has enclosed some very large meadows near the Mogollon Rim.

Although similar to aspen fences, the length of each side and the corner supports require different building techniques. The photo is a riparian field that was recently completed. It is hard to see the fence due to the size of the protected area, but it's there.



The Aspen Team is always happy to have more hands whether it is just for a single outing or on a regular basis. More information about opportunities to participate can be found on our web site <http://www.friendsofnazforests.org/page-1504701> or contact Dave Downes, Aspen Team Coordinator, at 928-928-522-9207.

Preventative Search and Rescue Off to a Great Start! By Bill Waters

Preventative Search & Rescue (PSAR) is up and running again this year. Twenty volunteers participated in the initial training at Snow Bowl in mid-May to get ready for opening on the Mt. Humphreys Trail on Memorial Day. Armed with training and USFS uniforms, or at least patches, we began delivering on our mission of increasing visitor and hiker safety through awareness and improving the “experience” by providing information on the Wilderness Area.

Brian Poturalski, Recreation Staff Officer for the Flagstaff Ranger District in 2015, founded PSAR on the Kachina Peaks. He enlisted the aid of Dr. Marty Lee, NAU Forestry professor and FoNAF to develop the team and practices needed to deliver on the mission. A focus on “Education, Engagement and Safety” has made for a better experience for the more than 10,000 visitors who visit or hike the trail each summer. The PSAR Team staffs the trailhead and roves the trail each Friday, Saturday and Sunday until early October.

Some challenges started the season with snow and ice on the trail, an abundance of fall down trees, high winds, Kendrick Boundary Fire smoke and lots of hikers and visitors. We have yet to enter the traditional monsoon season when dangerous daily weather often arrives unannounced but it seems more hikers this season are aware of the risks, challenges and delights of the trail and come better prepared. As usual we have seen the typical hikers who look like they stepped from the cover of Outside magazine, but we also see the more interesting attire like gorilla or goat costumes. There are bare foot hikers, amputees, international travelers, and snow lovers hiking to the Saddle to board down the Inner Basin. We also see those training for multi-day expeditions to Mt. Whitney, Kilimanjaro, Mont Blanc to name a few.

But our experiences are not all about the more extreme adventurers. We see the look of amazement on the children as they listen intently to the PSAR volunteers tell stories about the mountains, animals and wonders of the wilderness.

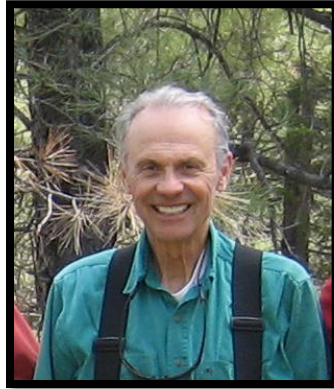
FoNAF members are always welcome to join us in this fun and very interesting program.

Bill Waters
PSAR Volunteer Coordinator



And the Rest of the Story about.....

Ed Clark



Ed grew up in Washington, PA, which is 25 miles SW of Pittsburgh. In his teenage years he worked for 6 consecutive summers as a counselor, canoeing instructor, and hiking guide at a YMCA camp. Fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting filled his pastime. Ed graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and then continued his education at the School of Medicine, earning his M.D. degree in 1966.

This was a time when the Vietnam War was rapidly accelerating and all medical school graduates were required to serve 2 years in exchange for deferment. Ed accepted a commission in the US Public Health Service and was sent to Winslow, AZ, to serve the Native American population as a general medical officer. Weekends were spent exploring the Grand Canyon, the Mogollon Rim, and much of the Southwest. Ed then returned to Pittsburgh for 4 years of specialty training in radiology and nuclear medicine. Having lived in the West, there was no question that Ed and wife Sandy would return to Arizona.

Ed worked as a radiologist and nuclear medicine specialist at Flagstaff Medical Center for 35 years. After retiring, Ed joined FoNAF the year it was founded in 2009. Ed and Sandy are active birders and have traveled to Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Alaska and much of the US in search of different birds and their special habitats. The Coconino National Forest is particularly important to birders since it is the extreme northern limit for several nesting Madrean pine/oak woodland bird species.

As a volunteer Ed feels quite fortunate to enjoy and do his part to preserve our public lands as a FoNAF member. He's extensive knowledge of Northern Arizona trails and land marks is valued by the Aspen Team when a work location needs to be pinpointed. His medical background is also helpful to the older members, and the phrase "Ed, I have this problem with my.....what is that and what should I do?" is often overheard.

Thanks Ed for all your volunteer hours and field expertise. You're very much appreciated.

502,500 total miles and 54 total years of ownership.... Two Members' Stories

After many Aspen Team outings with Ron Bauman and Mea Stees it was surprising that both drove up in almost identical red Toyota pickups having similar useful wear and tear. So after digging a little deeper, we discovered their testaments to each truck's reliability and their amazingly long lives. The similarities in their history warranted a special feature in the Newsletter.



Ron's 1993

Mileage 267, 000

Bought in 1993 and picked out by my wife. Owned all 24 years

I only replaced things like water pump, brakes, batteries, tires. It still has same engine, drive train, clutch and body. It does burn a bit of oil these last few years, but the car mechanic said "You might as well keep driving it as long as it runs", so I have.

Never gotten stuck; never driven in the ditch. Remarkable, considering it has only 2-wheel drive and is light weight, and is used year around.

Mea's 1994

Mileage 235,500

I got my truck in 1997 when it had 43,000 miles. I was working up a mountain road on the way to Lake Tahoe and needed a 4 wheel drive vehicle. I have owned it all that time.

I've just had normal maintenance except that I replaced the clutch recently.

This has been a wonderful vehicle. I used it to move 4 cats, a Doberman, and artwork from northern Nevada. I also hauled ceramic tile from Phoenix to my home in Flagstaff.

Send-off for Ralph Baierlein at Fort Tuthill

On June 8th the FoNAF membership in combination with Forest Service representatives said farewell to Ralph and his wife Jean prior to their departure for retirement living in California. In recognition of Ralph's many years of volunteering and countless contributions he was given the following gifts:

- Brian Poturalski, Recreation Staff Officer for Coconino National Forest presented a plaque of appreciation for working with the FS and for founding FoNAF.
- Mark Nabel, Silviculturist also presented a beautiful aspen wood plaque with a photo thanking Ralph for his many creative contributions and continued mission to improve the health of aspen trees in Coconino National Forest.
- Tom Mackin, FoNAF President, gave Ralph a departing gift from FoNAF of an original oil painting by Bob Dyer commissioned by the Board of Directors. He also received a photo book of the several of the exclosures established by FoNAF and of the many volunteers Ralph worked with.

As a special treat Mark Nabel's wife Cassandra baked a cake that everyone enjoyed, almost too much. Thanks to her and thanks to FoNAF for providing picnic sandwiches and veggies.



Don't Forget...Our Facebook Page has Current News and Photos

Bruce Belman, FoNAF's Facebook Captain, diligently maintains our Facebook page with new photos and commentary about events. His updates fill in the gaps between Newsletters, providing photos from outings and other recent events from PSAR to issuing back country permit to Thirsty Thursday gatherings.

To get a Facebook account (if you don't have one), the process is simple. On your browser search for "Facebook.com" and it will walk you through the start up steps, only a couple, and then you can search for "Friends of Northern Arizona Forests" and there we are. Save our site as a favorite and it's always available.

Friend of Northern Arizona Forests

Mission Statement:

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests is dedicated to assisting the United States Forest Service in maintaining, protecting, and restoring the natural and cultural resources and the scenic beauty of our forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. We are a solution-oriented volunteer group that works in partnership with the Forest Service to assist the Service in tasks it does not have the staff or the funds to accomplish on its own. In addition, we seek to connect the community and the Forest Service to the benefit of both parties and of the forest itself.

FoNAF Board of Directors

Tom Mackin, President
Marty Lee, Vice President
Bob Dyer, Secretary
Dave Downes, Treasurer

Ralph Baierlein
Pam Baldwin
Bruce Belman
Ed Clark

Tony DeCou
Bill Kluwin
Curt Knight
Anthony Quintile
Bill Waters

Coconino National Forest information:

District Rangers: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/about-forest/offices>
Website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino/>