



P.O. Box 727 Midway, UT 84049

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I hope many of you were able to participate in one of our Full Moon snowshoe hikes. You may not know that our Friends group purchased the snowshoes for the Visitor Center several years ago. This year from the snowshoe rental program and our two Full Moon hikes, we raised over \$1700. This money will be used as requests for funds come to us from Wasatch Mountain State Park.

Just this past week the final bids came in for a contractor to build the planned Huber Grove Trail. Bruce Strom, our Park Manager, is very confident that the trail will be completed this summer. How exciting it is to see our vision come true.

Another great project that FOW will see this summer is a new Website design. Ken McConnell, a Friends member, has generously volunteered to redesign and improve our site. Kris Beer, our newsletter/website coordinator, is assisting. We would like to have feedback from you about receiving the newsletter and other communications through website and emails.

I hope to see all of you at our hikes and events this summer. Remember our goal this year is new memberships, so bring some friends along!

Sincerely,
Marianne Wicks, President

Upcoming Events

Because of the economy, FWMSPP has decided against a large fundraiser for 2009. Instead we want to focus on three smaller events that would include a bit of fund and membership raising. The first event is the annual Membership Dinner June 5 (see above). Strength is in numbers so we are encouraging all of our current members to invite friends and acquaintances to our activities so they can get to know us and our Mission. With State Park budget and staff cuts, the park is asking for more help than usual from Friends. This is not only from dollars. They need more volunteer help. We would love to see more of you become active with an activity that you may be interested in.

For information about the Golf Outing and Fall Celebration, see page 3.

Spring 2009

BE A FRIEND!

For more information, call 435-654-1791
or visit us on the web:

www.friendsofwasatch.org



Save the Date! Membership Dinner June 5th

Friday, June 5th is our annual summer membership dinner. In addition to good food and a time for catching up with old friends you haven't seen for a while, we would like each of you to bring someone who hasn't joined FOW yet and you think would enjoy becoming a new Friend of Wasatch.

We plan to have a social hour with appetizers and beverages at the Yurt beginning at 5:30, followed by hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, side dishes and desserts at the Visitor Center. You will be receiving an EVITE soon.

After dinner those interested can join Wendy our Park Naturalist for a full moon hike at Deer Creek. The hike will be about one and a half hours beginning at 8:30 pm. See page 2 for more information about the hike.

Remember to put June 5th on your calendar!

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Watching the Wasatch

Park Staff Report

by Wendy Wilson, Park Naturalist

Spring has finally come. This is an exciting and challenging time for the park. We are working hard at opening and maintaining the campground and the four golf courses, as well as getting trails in good shape. The contract for the Huber Grove trail is in place (or will be very soon), and work will start within the next few weeks. We are excited for this to get underway.

We have faced some challenges this year. We are losing two full time positions: one ranger and one accountant position. This will directly affect Mert Russo and Vickie Hardinger, and will indirectly affect the rest of the staff as we work to try and cover their positions. We will miss them both very much.

Summer programs will begin at the end of May and include activities for children and families. If you have any questions or need further information, check with the Park or visit www.stateparks.utah.gov. These provide great opportunities to get your family, including kids and grandkids, outside doing something fun.

Thanks again for all the support you lend to the park.

Summer Park Hiking Schedule

Dress for the weather, and bring water, snacks, and a flashlight.

June 5: Full Moon Lakeside Hike. Join the Park Naturalist on a 1 1/2 hour full moon hike along the Soldier Hollow Deer Creek Trail beginning at 8:30 pm. We will hike approximately 3 miles on a portion of this out-and-back trail. Enjoy incredible views over Deer Creek Reservoir and the Heber Valley. This hike is suitable for all levels. Meet at the Soldier Hollow Trail Landing area.

July 3: Full Moon Sunset Hike. Join the Park Naturalist on this 2-mile round trip hike along a portion of the Visitor Center Trail at 8:30 to enjoy the fading light of the sunset and beautiful light of the full moon. We will take a short break at a small pond and talk about some of the wonders of the moon.

August 7: Full Moon Hike. Join the Park Naturalist on this 2-mile round trip hike along the Heber Valley Overlook Trail at Dutch Hollow at 8:30. We will discuss nocturnal wildlife and some of the adaptations that allow them to navigate through a dark environment.

The following events are scheduled for the general public. Some require reservations and have a fee for adults. Call the Park for details, 654-1791.

- May 2: Earth Day Celebration
- May 7: Living with Wildlife, Bears
- May 23: Junior Ranger Program: How Animals Move
- May 23: Campground Evening Program: Astronomy, Stories of Light
- May 30: Junior Ranger Program: Discovering Birds
- May 30: Campground Evening Program: All About Insects!
- June 4: Living with Wildlife, Skunks
- July 2: Living with Wildlife, Coyotes
- August 6: Living with Wildlife, Snakes
- September: Apple Harvesting at the Huber Grove
- September 3: Living with Wildlife, Moose
- October 1: Living with Wildlife, Cougar

RECYCLING EFFORT

As you may have read in the previous newsletter, Friends is expanding our Recycling Project started last summer first at the Soldier Hollow Golf Course. Under the fine initiative and supervision of Sherry Roser, we were able to place a number of containers and remove hundreds of pounds of glass, plastic and cardboard waste to a recycling company in Heber City. This spring we are expanding this effort to include the Wasatch Mountain State Park Course as well. Eight large bins and eight smaller bins of two types will be placed.

Bruce Strom has indicated that the State Park will be able to provide the clear bag liners and mostly likely have stenciled signs painted to indicate which containers will store which kinds of waste. The Friends are providing additional funding to encourage this environmental effort keeping the park course cleaner and preserving its beauty for all who use it.

We hope you will participate in this worthy community effort as you use the golf courses for many years to come.

Elizabeth Ducoff

Visitor Center Garden Update

We hope you have all enjoyed the garden at the front of the building. But after five years, the weeds and shrubs have taken over, and the original mulch has disappeared. In addition, many of the perennials need to be divided. It has become too large a project for a few volunteers and park staff to do. At the last board meeting it was decided that we need to hire someone to help us this year. So for now no gardening day planned is planned.





Friends of Wasatch 2009 Summer Hikes

Saturday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. We will participate in National Trails Day by having a service project hike, and we will prune the Nature Trail at the Wasatch State Park Campground as we go. The hike will take about 2 hours with the pruning that is needed on the trail. Bring hand pruners and a small saw, water, snacks and wear appropriate clothing, gloves, and hiking shoes. We will meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the campground.

Saturday, July 11th at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the Visitors Center and carpool to Guardsman Pass to begin our hike to Blood Lake. The lake itself is at a high elevation, and this will be a moderate hike with some elevation loss/gain. Hiking time is about one hour. The wild flowers should be beautiful so pack your cameras, bring a lunch, and carry some water to this pretty spot in the Wasatch Range. Wear appropriate clothing and good hiking boots. A hiking stick is always a good addition to a hike that has some steep parts as this one does.

If you have questions or need more information, please call Linda Glissmeyer at 654-0703.

Information about the August and September hikes will be in the Summer newsletter.

February Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

The second annual Friends of Wasatch Full Moon Snowshoe Hike took place on Friday evening February 6th. The event was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the beauty of the night! Even though the clouds covered the moon most of the evening, enough moonlight pushed through to make a beautiful and magical evening. The temperature was pleasant and upon returning to the Visitors Center the rosy-cheeked trekkers were served an array of sumptuous treats and hot beverages.



Golf Outing Membership Drive Fundraiser

We are planning a 9 hole golfing get together in late July or early August. Bruce Strom, Park Manager has generously given us use of the course with no fees for play or carts. It will be some type of scramble. Members will put together a 4 person team including 2 members and 2 guests. There will be an entrance fee, which will cover prizes for the winning teams and a get together following golf. We want this to be a fun, **stress free** golf event for **all levels** of golfers. The evening is still in the planning stage. Look for more information coming to you in your email and at our website www.friendsofwasatch.org. For the non-golfer we could use help putting this event on, helping at the golf course, and at the party following golf.

New Trail to Huber Grove Fall Celebration

The tentative date for this event is Saturday, September 12. We would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration of the new trail. This will be an afternoon community event. Our hope is that the trail is complete enough for people to walk from the Visitor Center to Huber Grove. So, please remember this date. We are looking for vendors and entertainment and volunteers. If you have any ideas, suggestions or want to volunteer, please let us know.

How are FOW Dollars Helping the Park?

- \$1000 for a new Wasatch State Park brochure.
- \$500 match for an interpretive grant.
- \$1000+ recycling program at WMSP Golf Course.
- \$400 youth size snowshoes.
- \$300 youth ski program at Soldier Hollow Day Lodge.
- \$4000 engineering fee for new Huber Grove Trail.



These requests from the Park are possible because of the money FOW receives from membership dues, donations, opportunity drawings, snowshoe hikes and snowshoe rentals, and our fundraiser. To all of members and supporters THANK YOU!



P.O. Box 727 Midway, UT 84049

We're on the Web!

www.friendsofwasatch.org

Check our website for updates on all our activities. Or check your local listings in: Wasatch Wave, Park Record, or the Salt Lake Tribune.

Our website from:



Webmaster
Ken McConnell
654-4730
kenm12@q.com

WEBSITE CHANGES:

Coming in May, Friends website will have a new look. With input from the Board on how we want the website to look, Ken McConnell has redesigned the site to better present information and make navigation easier. I will send an email when the site is up and ready for you to look at. I hope you find the new look and all the information a welcome and pleasant change. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Call or email Kris Beer at 657-3098 or kbeer62@msn.com

The Mission

of the Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park is to preserve and protect the historical and ecological integrity of Wasatch Mountain State Park through public awareness and education and to promote the development of responsible recreational opportunities and facilities for present and future generations.

Mark Your Calendars

For more details, see articles inside Newsletter

**June 5th Annual Membership Dinner
5:30 at the Visitor Center**

Friends Hikes

June 6th—10 am Trail Service Project
Wasatch State Park Campground parking lot

July 11—9 am Blood Lake, Guardsman Pass
Visitor Center parking lot

Wasatch Park Moonlight Hikes

June 5th—8:30 Deer Creek
Soldier Hollow Trail Landing Area

July 3rd—8:30 Visitor Center Trail
Visitor Center parking lot

August 7th—8:30 Heber Valley Overlook
Dutch Hollow Trailhead

FOW Board Meetings

May 20 June 17, July 15
5 pm at the Visitor Center
All Members Welcome