

Winter
2011-12



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Presidents Message

With the start of a new year come new visions and goals. Because of budget cuts to the state park I see the FOW role as a supporter of the park evolving to even more of a fundraising organization. The list of improvements needed at the park for maintenance is long and ongoing and yet new trails, camping and recreational sites also need to be developed. The vision is that Friends assist the park in all these areas. But to do so we must find ways to attract new members, volunteers, donors and sponsors. We also need to reach out to our community for support. As FOW members if you don't already, spread the word about FOW and promote the two fundraisers we have planned to boost our budget for 2012. We will be selling advertising space on the golf courses and hosting a golf scramble.

I'll be looking for you snowshoeing and skiing on the snow covered trails.

Happy New Year,
Marianne Wicks

The Mission

Of 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

Become a Member of Friends of Utah State Parks

By Robin Watson-Christianson Utah State Parks Volunteer Coordinator

Membership into Friends of Utah State Parks (FUSP) is affordable and easy! Members of Parks Friends Groups, such as Friends of Wasatch Mountain, can join FUSP for \$10. Members receive two 1-day passes good at any of Utah's 43 State Parks, 20% discount in park book and gift stores, and "I Support State Parks" window decal. To join visit www.friendsofutahstateparks.org

FUSP recently approved an affiliate membership, where organized groups can join and lend their support for our State Parks. The affiliate fee should be determined in the very near future.

FUSP is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to preserve, protect, promote, advocate and educate about the cultural heritage, history, natural resources, and funding needs to Utah State Parks.



Volunteer Opportunities

Many of you, our members, have skills that we are not aware of. Maybe you would like to be on a planning committee, lead a hike, lead an educational or clean-up program, help with refreshments, do marketing, community watch dog, or become a board member. There are big jobs and small jobs. New ideas and involved members make a strong and interesting organization.

If you are interested in becoming more involved please contact Marianne Wicks at 435-654-1944 or mswicks6@msn.com we can find the right job for you!

Annual Fundraisers
Board position
Community Liaison
Educational Programs
Government Liaison
Holiday Party
Marketing
Member Party
Snowshoe Hikes
Summer Picnics
Summer Trail Hikes
Trail Maintenance and Building



Holiday Party by Sherry Roser

The annual Friends of Wasatch Holiday Party was held at Soldier Hollow Day Lodge on Friday December 2, 2011. If you missed it - you missed a GREAT party! Over 70 members and guests arrived to be greeted by festive décor and fantastic gourmet food. Turkey, ham and salmon were provided by The Friends Board. Thanks to them and all the members who brought the other wonderful dishes. New this year: these "savories" were enjoyed on "REAL" plates, cups and utensils which greatly reduced the amount of trash. This change was made possible by a new program of the Utah Society of Environmental Education (USEE) where they loan, at no charge to their members, dishes and utensils for use at events. The Friends is a member of USEE, and we thank Tracy see for making the arrangements for us. This is a great leap for a cleaner world. We also had recycle bins for plastic, aluminum and glass for the first time at our Holiday Party. With a little extra time and effort we are becoming better FRIENDS of our Park and World.

President Marianne Wicks welcomed and thanked members gave us an update on the efforts and activities of The Friends and presented the Volunteer of the Year award. Kudos to our entertainers of the evening, Sharon Mitchell and Steve Hewsure of "The Red Dessert Ramblers" who provided terrific music and inspired some of our more talented members to dance and sing to their Holiday music.

Prizes for our opportunity drawing included for the first time a "Redneck Basket" designed and donated by Assistant Park Manager Tracy See and her husband Rich. Tickets sales for that and other items were over \$500 for the evening.

Thanks to everyone who helped the 2011 Holiday Party happen in great style!

Volunteer of the Year by Marianne Wicks

One short year ago Sharon Young volunteered to be the FOW Newsletter Editor. We didn't know Sharon very well, as she and her husband Stu are fairly new members. But she said she would like to do it and we were not about to turn her away. Little did we know how talented, creative, and hard working she was. Another opportunity for her to take on the job as webmaster presented itself last spring and Sharon again volunteered. We accepted. She had a vision and was determined from the start to develop a website FOW could be proud of. After many months and countless hours Sharon launched our new site this fall. During this time she continued to put together attractive, fun newsletters every three months.

Sharon has a son in SLC who at times assisted her with the website development. She also has a daughter who lives in Minnesota with her husband and an adorable little granddaughter.

Sharon is a petite, classy lady with a generous spirit. We are very grateful to her for all her volunteer efforts. It is a pleasure working with her on the board and to name her Volunteer of 2011.





WATCHING THE WASATCH Park Staff Report

Become a FRIEND

Join

Friends of Wasatch State
Park!

Membership Information

P O Box 727

Midway, UT 84049

435 654-1791

www.friendsofwasatch.org

As we head into December we are all hoping for snow. By the time you read this I hope we have plenty of the white stuff so we can enjoy our winter sports of snowshoeing, x-country skiing and snowmobiling in the park. If you're reading this and there is no snow please start your snow dance. Even though winter can be stressful from a lot of snow, with all the fall colors gone we can probably all agree that some pretty white snow would be a nice addition to our beautiful park.

I had a good turn out for the first basic snowshoeing class without any snow! We learned about snowshoes, tried them on and then went for a hike without snowshoes. The Heber Valley Christmas Bird Count was also a success. We had 14 people monitoring our precious "flighted" creatures in the valley. The unofficial count is 2,480 birds and 47 species. Stay tuned for future opportunities to participate in citizen science projects in the park. Also check the Friends website for upcoming winter programs.

We are looking forward to the Crescent Moon and Stars hikes this winter with the Friends group. They normally do a full

moon hike but this year they are trying something different since the full moon falls so close to the New Year. Come out and support the Friends under dark, star filled skies on Jan 27 and Feb 24.

Remember the upper trail on the Mountain Course will not be groomed or open for skiing or snowshoeing this year. Also the cross-country ski trails and the golf course is not open to snowshoeing. Snowshoe rentals are available in the visitor center and can be used in other areas of the park. Members of Friends are free of charge. Friends of Friends still pay the rate of \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids. Snowshoeing is a great way to get outside in the winter for exercise. If you are a cross-country skier, you can buy a day pass at the visitor center or pro shop. Adults are \$6 and kids are \$3.

Thanks to the Friends for a great Christmas party and also for supporting the Heber Valley Christmas Bird Count dinner on Dec 17th.

See you next year!

Kathy Donnell

Park Naturalist

Our Website

www.friendsofwasatch.org

Generously

Hosted By:



What is Adopt-A-Park?

The old adage, "one person can make a difference" really is true! The Adopt-A-Park program allows an individual, family or group to help preserve and maintain our state parks. You can adopt an entire park or a portion of a park, such as a trail, group area, or campground. Your efforts help to keep parks clean for all to enjoy. In return, a sign recognizing your efforts is posted by Utah State Parks. All that is asked is a one-year commitment

As an organization, The Friends have taken on the Visitor Center garden and the Nature Trail. A sign is posted in the Visitor Center recognizing our efforts. If you have a favorite trail and are so inclined, why not lend a hand. Contact Tracy See or Bruce Strom at 435-654-1791.

FOW Board

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Winter Safety in Avalanche Country

by Drew Patterson

Park Ranger

Wasatch Mtn. State Park

Most people would be surprised to hear that avalanches would exist right now in our back country due to the very dry winter we've had to this point. Here we are in the middle of December and wondering when the storms are going to arrive. It would probably surprise most people as well, to know that Utah has had its first fatality in 2011 from an avalanche which occurred back in the middle of November. So how did this happen?

Utah typically receives snow storms starting in October, and sometimes as early as September. When these storms come, the snow will characteristically stay in the shady areas of the North facing slopes. This snow becomes very crusty and sugary due to the temperature changes that fluctuate that time of year. The problems arise when we start getting bigger storms in November and this sits on top of the weak layers of early snow. Once a person starts skiing or snowmobiling on these weak snow packs, avalanches can and will often occur.

A good way to understand an avalanche is as simple as thinking of the snow that sticks to your car windshield. When it is cold, the snow sticks to the windows slope and doesn't slide off. Once temperatures warm up a bit, the snow will start to slough off and often times in slabs. This is true for steep slopes in the mountains.

Some factors to be aware of that as a combination or individually can cause avalanches to occur are; snowfall, temperature, wind direction, snowpack conditions, terrain, slope angle and slope orientation. Most avalanches occur on slopes between 30 and 45 degrees, on slopes that are North, East and Northeast facing, in open areas where little vegetation is, and on slopes where the wind has loaded the opposing side of the ridge line (wind typically blows up hill and deposits snow from one side of the ridge onto the other side).

How do you know if the snow is safe? Short of cutting into a hill side and observing the layers everywhere you go, some things to look for and listen for are cracks in the snow, slabs separating from the hillside, or listen for "whumping" sounds that indicate the snow is settling in large areas underneath you.

Ideally, avoiding avalanche areas is far better than trying to survive one. The best practices to increase your odds of surviving include the following: Always wear an avalanche beacon and know how to use it. Always ride or ski with someone who has a beacon as well; it won't do you any good if you have one on and your potential rescuers don't. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return home.

There are many more opportunities for you to be killed in the backcountry in the winter than just avalanches. When you go to the backcountry go with the intent to spend the night on the mountain. If you have this in your mind, then you will have made all the necessary preparations and taken all the necessary gear to keep yourself alive until your rescuers can find you.



Lucille Tuttle

The Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park owes a great debt to Lucille Tuttle.

She is a gracious, humble and extraordinary woman and we thank her for her vision and dedication .

Friend Watch: Lucille Tuttle

I was born and raised in Salt Lake City, graduated from East High and the University of Utah with a BS in history and secondary education. I met my husband at the U of U where he majored in political science and then got a Master's degree from Stanford in international relations. We settled down in the Virginia suburbs of Washington D.C. Don spent his career in foreign affairs for the federal govt. I taught history and govt. in high school for ten years. We enjoy travel, photography, reading, the theater and political debate.

We have two children; a daughter born in Munich, Germany while we were there on assignment and a son, born in Georgetown, D.C. Our daughter, her husband and our two grand children live in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. Our grandchildren are both attending college in Atlanta. Our son lives in American Fork, Utah.

We retired and moved back to Utah in 1985. We "fell in love" with Heber Valley. We also got involved in civic activities, campaigning to save the Heber tabernacle, renovating the city park and various other volunteer activities in Heber and Salt Lake. These volunteer activities lead to my appointment by Gov. Leavitt, to the Utah State Parks Board in 1993. I was the first woman member of that board and served as chairman from 1995 to 1997. In that position I helped get the Olympic cross country skiing events for Soldier Hollow and served on the planning committee for that venue. I served on the State Parks Board until 2001 when I was appointed to the Utah Travel Council Board.

In planning for the Olympics we found that a "Friends" group would be very helpful for Wasatch Mountain State Park. The Friends of WMSP was established in 1999 as a 501-C-3 non-profit organization. Our goals were to preserve the historical significance of the park, protect the ecological integrity of the area, promote public awareness and education and develop recreational opportunities and awareness. A major activity was to raise money for park projects. Our first such effort was to raise money to re-build the Tate barn at Soldier Hollow for the Olympics. It was highly successful and we have since held golf tournaments, garage sales, dinner/silent auctions, and other events in raising money for projects such as trails, signage, landscaping, equipment, and educational brochures for the park. We sponsor hikes, snowshoeing events, social activities for members, etc. I think aiding the park in providing things for our visitors that cannot be done due to their ever-shrinking budget is one of our most important roles and much appreciated by the staff. We need to keep our overall goals in mind as we plan future activities.

Welcome New Members

Judith Griffin, Midway, UT
George Krebs, Santa Barbara, CA
Jeanne Coleman, Park City, UT

New 2012 Advertiser: Dick and Shonna Perry, Take Shape for Health



Adopt the pace of
nature: her secret is
patience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



PLEASE RECYCLE

Mark Your
Calendars

Open Board Positions

Hiking Director: this is a great position for someone who wants to volunteer but doesn't have a lot of extra time. These are simple hikes and you would have the freedom to plan whatever kind of hike you enjoy.

- ◆ Determines with the board the dates of summer hiking activities for the calendar year. Normally three or four hikes a summer.
- ◆ Will either be the hike leader or identifies persons to lead hikes. Hike logistics will be decided by Hiking Director and volunteer hike leaders.
- ◆ Arranges with Website Director, Newsletter Director, Marketing Director, board and park staff to publicize all hiking activities.
- ◆ Photos are taken whenever possible at all the hiking events. Upon completion of a hiking event; the hike leader writes a short article summarizing the event and emails article and photos to the Newsletter Director and Website Director.
- ◆ When possible attends board meetings and reports on hike events.

Publicity Director: this is a new position with responsibilities still to be determined.

Essentially we are looking for someone who would be fully informed of the FOW and their activities. They would be responsible for:

- ◆ Notifying all forms of media locally and throughout the state about the FOW and their activities.
- ◆ Assist committee chairpersons with publicity and advertising for specific events.
- ◆ When possible attends board meetings.

If you or anyone you know is interested in these positions please email mwicks6@msn.com.

Crescent Moon and Stars Snowshoe Hike

Join us for our Crescent Moon and Stars Snowshoe Hike at Wasatch Mountain State Park Visitor Center, 1281 Warm Springs Road, Midway, Utah 84049 Friday, January 27, 2012 at 7:00 PM and again on Friday, February 24, 2012 also at 7:00 PM. **Registration is mandatory.** Hikes are guided and available for beginner, intermediate or advanced ability levels. Participating children must be at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult.

Registration fee is \$5.00 per person in advance, or \$6.00 at the door. Space is limited, **registration is required. To register go to www.friendsofwasatch.org and click on the REGISTER button from the home page.** Snowshoes are available for rent for \$5.00 per pair for non-member, no cost to members. Hikes are 1-2 hours long depending on ability level.

Bring your flashlight and ski poles. Light refreshments will follow the hikes at the Visitor Center. For information, call 435-654-1791