



FRIENDS *of* FLAGSTAFF N A T I O N A L MONUMENTS

MONUMENTAL NEWS

ISSUE 2, JUNE 2014



Trail Crew
at Walnut
Canyon.

Trail Construction and Rehabilitation

For three relatively small national park units, the Flagstaff Area National Monuments has an impressive trails regime.

Trail work began last summer at Sunset Crater with construction of the new A'a Trail by the American Conservation Experience (ACE). This summer work has begun on a new accessible trail, highlighted by the placement of a 5,700lb trail bridge. A connector trail from the Lenox Crater Trail to the Lava Flow trails complex will also be finished later in the year.

Walnut Canyon is beginning a second year of Island Trail rehabilitation. Retaining walls are being rebuilt, asphalt is being removed, and a petroleum-free decomposed granite (DG) tread is being laid down. Last year 300,000lbs of asphalt were removed and recycled, and 50,000lbs of rock

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and 34,000lbs of dirt for construction and backfill were brought in. Trail crews from the NPS, ACE, and Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) constructed 1,100ft of mortared trail liner, 930sf of dry stacked retaining wall, 51 new individual limestone stairs, and 1,360sf of new DG tread (453ft by 3ft). Materials were flown in and out by helicopter, with 103,000lbs of material transported on a 600ft skyline running from the rim to the trailhead. The combined efforts of the helicopter and skyline operations saved the trail crew 8,140 loads at 50lbs apiece and nearly 3 million stair steps up and down the trail!

So far this year 38,000lbs of materials have been transported via the skyline for the Island Trail project. NPS, ACE, AZCC, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and AmeriCorps crews will all play a role throughout the project.

At Wupatki last winter, the NPS trail crew reconstructed uneven landings and steps on a 127ft flagstone stairway on the Wupatki Pueblo Trail. The crew also removed 2 tons of asphalt and installed 3,000lbs of DG tread.

Trail work extends beyond the boundaries of the monuments. Funding to work with the City of Flagstaff over the next 3 years has allowed improvements to the Arizona National Scenic Trail through Picture Canyon. Last year ACE crews worked with the NPS on rerouting several erosion prone sections and the removal and naturalization of 2.5 miles of abandoned roads to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access.

Come enjoy a trail at your favorite Flagstaff Area National Monument!



NPS Maintenance Crew



The skyline used for the Island Trail, and materials being prepared for the ride down.



Before and after pictures along a section of the Island Trail.

Employee Biography

Meet the Flagstaff Area National Monuments' Biologist, Mark Szydło.

Tennessee native Mark Szydło, attended the University of Tennessee, studying Wildlife and Fisheries Science. His career has taken him to jobs in twelve states and territories, including nine national park sites.

"I have been extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to work on research projects with bears, wolverine, eagles, falcons, owls, foxes, mice, and many threatened and endangered plants. It really keeps me motivated in conservation efforts throughout all of the monuments.

"The complexity of biological adaptations and variations among plants and animals within their native habitats is astounding. I'm always surprised by the sheer diversity and inherent beauty of our natural systems. Sharing these aspects of our monuments with visitors is always rewarding."

Within Walnut Canyon, Szydło is focusing his efforts on Mexican Spotted Owl, raptor, and water quality studies. At Wupatki, he is studying raptor nesting, invasive plant control, native plant restoration, and pronghorn habitat. Sunset Crater Volcano studies are centered upon successional plant dynamics.

"The expansive grasslands and winding washes of Wupatki are amazing natural resources. The geological formations at Sunset Crater Volcano are one-of-a-kind. The biological complexity and cultural resource richness found from the rim to creek bottom at Walnut Canyon are outstanding. We really do have the best of all worlds within our monuments. I can't wait to share our discoveries with visitors and help to conserve these special places."



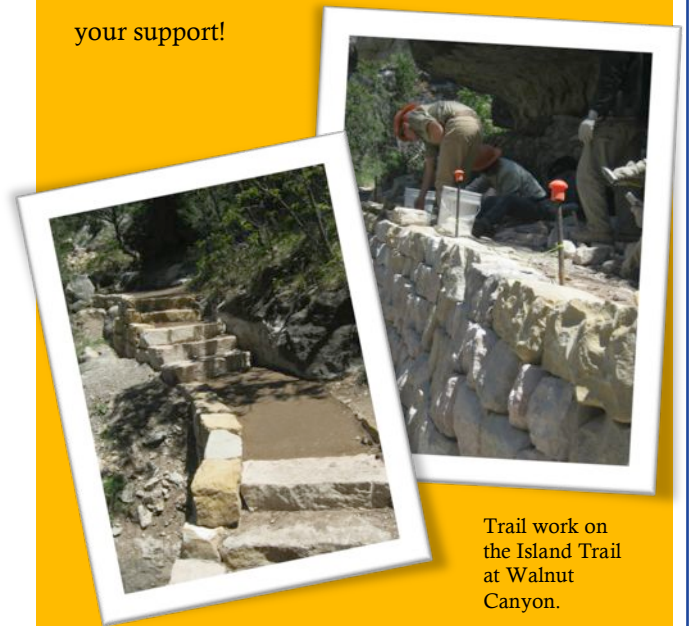
NPS Biologist,
Mark Szydło

Donations Welcome

Want to support puebloan ruin stabilization, trail maintenance, historic structure rehabilitation, scientific research through internships, or educational opportunities through travel grants? Make a tax deductible donation through the Friends of Flagstaff National Monuments and help the parks complete high priority projects.

Contact Kim Watson at friendsofthemonuments@msn.com for specific information on how you can help.

Thank you for
your support!



Trail work on
the Island Trail
at Walnut
Canyon.



Marty Myers looks out over seed rows planted and marked with colored pencils on June 1.

Demonstration Garden

A common question at Wupatki National Monument is “What did the prehistoric people eat?” A demonstration garden helps volunteers and staff answer that question. This marks the fifth year of seeds native to the region, such as Hopi Corn, Navajo corn, melons, gourds, pinto beans, sunflowers, and cotton (used in textiles), being grown in a small plot near the back of the Wupatki Visitor Center. The garden demonstrates types of plants cultivated by those living in the area during AD 1100-1250, and is easily seen by visitors as they walk towards Wupatki Pueblo.

This labor of love is a great addition to the interpretive story at the Flagstaff Area National Monuments.

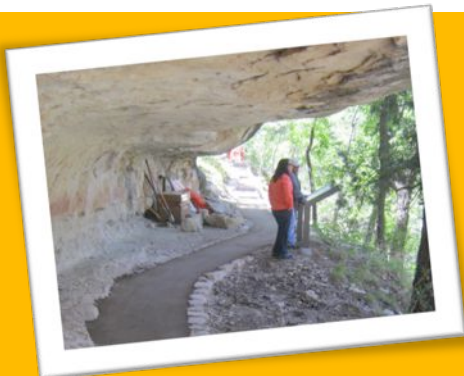
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Park Partners

Summit Fire Department

For John Portillo, Chief Ranger of the Flagstaff Area National Monuments (FLAG), and Don Howard, Chief of Summit Fire Department, it all comes down to serving the public. A formal agreement between FLAG and Summit extends limited resources and increases effectiveness in responding to fire, emergency medical, and other incidents within and around the national monuments. Chief Howard says helping to protect monument resources and visitors gives him and his staff a sense of pride. He believes public lands are critical to making the area a special place to live and visit. Chief Ranger Portillo agrees. He and his staff are often the first to respond to incidents, particularly in the far northern reaches of the Summit response area.

Successful collaboration has included training, federal assistance to Summit through the Rural Fire Assistance Program, Advanced Life Support provided to accident victims, mutual fire responses, and protection of structures and facilities within the monuments. Chief Ranger Portillo stresses the importance of establishing and maintaining a good relationship with partner agencies, such as Summit, before working together in emergency responses. FLAG is fortunate to have a dedicated, professional partner and neighbor in the Summit Fire Department.



Visitors enjoying the recently resurfaced Island Trail at Walnut Canyon.

How can I help?

Volunteers are an integral part of national park daily operations. Volunteers can collect entrance fees and sell books at the bookstore, conduct interpretive programs for visitors and school groups, do trail maintenance, assist with scientific research, and so much more! Without volunteers many of the services national parks offer would no longer be available.

Contact Cecilia_Shields@nps.gov for information about volunteering at one of the Flagstaff Area National Monuments.

Demonstration Garden

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As it was for the prehistoric people, the climate at Wupatki makes growing crops difficult. Some years are successful; some are not. Regular consultation with Hopi and Navajo gardeners helps improve gardening methods. Unfortunately, actual prehistoric farming methods cannot be duplicated, so modern compromises have been adopted. A fence helps keep out browsing rabbits and pronghorn. A drip line system delivers a measured amount of water to each plant in order to minimize water usage.

Maintaining the demonstration garden involves a lot of effort between Wupatki staff and Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) volunteers. VIPs Jay Lincoln and Marty Myers rototill and fertilize the garden each spring. VIP Bern Carey installs the drip line system and is the general

handy man. VIP Linda Carey and Park Ranger Holly Richards plan out the garden, selecting and planting the seeds. Wupatki staff water the garden each day. Everyone helps to monitor the garden and nurture it during the growing season.

When the garden is in full bloom, it is of great interest to visitors as they compare growing food in the Wupatki environment to the places they call home and thus learn more about the people who lived here 900 years ago.



Helicopter at work on the Island Trail.

Become a Friend Today!

For more information about the Friends of Flagstaff National Monuments contact:

Kim Watson at friendsofthemonuments@msn.com.

For hours of operation, ranger programs, and more information about the Flagstaff Area National Monuments visit these websites:

Wupatki National Monument: www.nps.gov/wupa/

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument: www.nps.gov/sucr/

Walnut Canyon National Monument: www.nps.gov/waca/

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