Friends of Sonoita Creek Invite You to Our 2008 Free Hikes, Walks & Interpretive Programs

Please call the guide by Friday at 8 p.m. if you are planning to take part in an activity or if you have questions about it.

Activities starting at the Sonoita Creek Visitor Center located within the park, or in Patagonia Lake State Park require no entry fee for registered participants (notify the gatehouse upon entry). The Rio Rico kiosk is in Rio Rico near the entrance to the Country Club off Pendleton Drive. From there we carpool into the Natural Area with the guide.

Saturday, Feb. 23 **Geology** **9:00 a.m.**

Meet at Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. Join geologist Sandy Kunzer for an exploration of the geology downstream from the dam at Patagonia Lake dam. A two-mile hike with a few rocky inclines. Bring water and a snack. A walking stick may be helpful. **Guide, Diana Holmes 520.455-5930**.

Saturday, Mar. 1 **Sonoita Creek Walk from Rio Rico** **9:00 a.m.**

Meet at Rio Rico kiosk. Lucie Thomas leads a 4-mile round-trip, easy, reflective walk along Sonoita Creek at the west entrance to Sonoita Creek Natural Area. Bring wate rand a snack. **Guide, Sally Lockwood 520.281-8167**

Sabodo marzo 1 **Caminata para las personas de habla español en Sonoita** **9:00 a.m.**

Nos reunimos en el centro de visitantes, en el parque estatal de Patagonia el sabado a las 9:00 am. Y caminaremos despacio por alrededor de dos horas alrededor de Sonoita Creek. Esplore y disfrute la belleza de este lugar tan especial y aprenda el porque tiene tantas plantas y animales y lo que usted puede hacer para ayudar y preservarlos. Su Guia, Kathi Soto una maestra del Distrito escolar de Santa Cruz y nativa de Nogales. **Guide, Kathi Soto 520.223-0403.**

Saturday, Mar. 8 **Petroglyph Site** **9:00 a.m.**

Meet at Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. Take a five-mile round-trip hike near Patagonia Lake to a rocky point with over 100 petroglyph with Ranger Jen Parks. Enjoy views of Patagonia Lake, mesquite bosque and desert upland vegetation. Learn about petroglyphs in celebration of Archaeology Week. Relatively flat with two short steep inclines. Bring water and lunch. **Guide, Don McIntosh. 520.394-2998**

Saturday, Mar. 8 **Red Mountain Hike** **9:00 a.m.**

Meet at the Patagonia Post Office, corner of 82 and Harshaw Rd. Hike the road to the top of the highest peak in the Patagonia Mts. to view Sonoita Creek, "the ribbon of life," winding through the valley. The four mile, 2,100 ft. ascent will be taken slowly with lunch and a rest at the top. Bring water and lunch. **Guide, Ron Hummel 520.394-2532.**

Saturday, Mar. 15 **Horseback Ride along Sonoita Creek** ***Registration required***

10:00 a.m. Spend part of a day horseback riding along Sonoita Creek from Rio Rico. Call for details. **Guide, Barbara Harsh. 520.344-0617**

Saturday, Mar. 15 **History along Sonoita Creek** ***Registration required***

9:00 a.m. Meet at the Sonoita Post Office, intersection of Routes 82 and 83, Sonoita. Learn about the rich history of Sonoita Creek by visiting six historical sites, including two old ranches, Ft. Crittenden, railroad station, and Indian markings. Drive from Sonoita to Patagonia Lake State Park and walk several miles. Bring water and lunch. Car pooling required. Limited attendance with priority to new and existing Friends members. **Guide, Ron Hummel 520.394-2532.**

Saturday, Mar. 29 **Fresno Canyon Hike** **9:00 a.m.**

Meet at the Rio Rico kiosk. Follow the Sonoita Creek stream bed for two miles. Scramble up into a cave to view Indian pictographs. Learn about the natural history of the area. Bring water & a snack. **Guides, Jim & Sally Lockwood. 520.281-8167**

Apr. 5 & 6 **Overnight Hike to Coal Mine Springs** ***Registration required***

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. Twelve-mile round trip hike through the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains. Camp at undeveloped site near Coal Mine Springs. Bring backpack equipment, food, water. For experienced backpackers.. **Guide, Joan VanDenbos 520.398-2435, cell 520.904-4929**

Saturday, Apr. 12 **Butterflies for Young Families** **9:00 a.m.**

Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. A special program for young families. Join the Patagonia Montessori Elementary School students who have been studying butterflies and view butterflies nectaring and puddling along Sonoita Creek. Blooming willows should attract 100's of butterflies and a dozen species. Ends at noon but bring water and snacks. **Guide, Ron Hummel with Patagonia Montessori School students. 520.394-2532**

Saturday, Apr. 12 **Sky Watch at Patagonia Lake State Park** **7:30 p.m.**

Meet at Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. Join Tom Arny, astronomer, to explore the stars and planets and learn about the night sky, one of the important features of the Sonoita Creek natural environment. **Guide, Jim Lockwood 520.281-8167**

Saturday, May 17 **Canoe/Kayak on Patagonia Lake** ***Registration required***

9:00 a.m. Meet at the Sonoita Creek Visitor Center. Bring your own water craft; rental craft available at Park (Call 287-5545 for information and reservations). Launch at the Marina. Explore the shoreline and coves around the Lake. Great exercise and beautiful scenery. Canceled if too windy or cold. **Guide, Reed Menke 520.394-2899.**