



P.O. Box 727 Midway, UT 84049

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

My first board meeting as the new president was on January 21. I was a bit nervous, but as the meeting progressed and we planned our 2009 calendar year, that nervousness turned to excitement. We have several new people on our board. New people seem to bring new energy and renewed energy to others.

We are not going to have a major fundraiser this year. We want to see the new Snake Creek trail and Huber Grove projects completed utilizing funds that have already been raised. The board's vision is to see our membership base and membership participation grow. We want to challenge the board and all our current members to stretch themselves, talk to friends, neighbors, fellow employees, acquaintances, newcomers, and share our common goals and mission. The vision is for FOW to become a larger, more recognizable and vital organization in our community. When my husband and I moved to Midway in 2000, we knew two people. We joined FOW to meet others with common interests, and many of the members are now like family to us. Meeting new members and hearing their stories is one of my favorite parts of being a Friends member. It's a great group to get to know and work with.

Look for lots of great changes and activities for FOW in 2009. Look to the Web for information. Thank you for the opportunity to be the new FOW president. Contact me anytime wikmon3@msn.com.

Sincerely,
Marianne Wicks

Using the Trails at Wasatch Mountain State Park

What a wonderful resource we have with the snowshoe and cross country trails at the Park! To maintain the trails, especially the 10k of groomed trails, the Park staff works many hours. And for the use of those trails, both Friends and guests pay a \$6 daily fee. You can also purchase 10 passes for \$50, saving \$10. Stop in at the Visitors Center for your trail pass. And remember that as a member of Friends, snowshoe rental is free!

Winter 2009

BE A FRIEND!

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

www.friendsofwasatch.org



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Volunteer of the Year Award

Friends past President Katy White was chosen as our 2008 Volunteer of the Year. Katy has been a FOW member and board officer for 10 years. She served as Secretary for eight years and President for two. As past president, she will remain on the board.

Along with her board responsibilities, Katy has worked at many Friends activities and fundraisers, including the Friend's booth at fairs and markets. She and her husband Jerry have opened their home for the FOW holiday party before we grew too big.

Katy is also known as the llama lady. Several years ago FOW used Katy's llamas to carry a gourmet lunch on a hiking trail off Guardsman's Pass. It was a memorable, wonderful hike. This past year we used the llamas with the FOW float in the County Fair and the Swiss Day's parades. Katy organized FOW participation in both these events.

In addition to serving in our organization, Katy has attended meetings as an FOW representative, and for the past two years has served as secretary on the newly formed Utah State Parks Friends group.

This recognition seems long overdue! We can't thank you enough, Katy, for all the time and hard work you have given to Friends. We are lucky to have you as a member and a friend.

Watching the Wasatch

Park Staff Report

by Wendy Wilson, Park Naturalist

New Members



We are pleased to welcome the following complimentary new members:

Mary Tullius - Director of Utah State Parks

Robin Watson - volunteer coordinator for State Parks

Membership Drive

This year the board of directors has decided to undertake a membership drive as one of its key initiatives. We're planning to launch this drive in late May or early June. Increasing the number of members in FOW is important and we should all consider how we can encourage more people in our community to join. We'll be communicating more information about this membership drive later this spring.

Meanwhile, we can all participate in adding new members to FOW. Please consider making a personal commitment to encourage at least one friend, neighbor, relative or newcomer in our community to join. If each one of us can get at least one additional member, we will double our membership this year. The more active members we have, the more things we can do to benefit Wasatch State Park.

Judy Huhn

There are several projects and activities taking place or in the planning process at the park. Here is a quick re-cap of each.

Huber Grove Trail. We are working with an engineer to get all of the specific planning for the trail, and prep it to be sent out to bid. We hope to have this out to bid by mid February. There are still a few details to be worked out, but for the most part we are moving forward well on this project. It will be great to have it.

Huber Grove Improvements. The money that was raised this past September at the Friends fundraiser has been deposited into a park account. We are looking at doing several improvements at the Huber Grove including one or two individual covered picnic areas, irrigation, an outdoor amphitheater, and possibly a few other things. What exactly takes place will depend on how specific costs all pan out. But we are looking forward to making some nice improvements to this site.

Visitor Center Pond. We've been working with a local community member, Paul Smoot, to put together a plan to dredge and improve the pond. We have met several times, and he has been able to secure donations for much of the equipment and labor. We are excited about the possibilities with this project and how it will improve the quality of fishing and safety around the pond.

The winter programs are going well, including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. We are looking forward to the next few months.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of Wasatch Mountain State Park.

Wendy Wilson, Park Naturalist
Wasatch Mountain State Park
(435) 654-1791
wendywilson@utah.gov

Holiday Party at Soldier Hollow

On December 2, about sixty Friends gathered at the Soldier Hollow Day Lodge for our annual holiday pot luck dinner. We gathered around the fire in the lodge and feasted on turkey, ham, salmon and a plethora of wonderful salads, veggies and desserts. Everyone had a chance to visit, hear about holiday plans and arrange ski dates.

After dinner Mickey Oksner entertained us with a custom photo DVD of Midway and our beautiful valley. Several Friends went home with great door prizes, and a lucky few won golf passes and a wine basket. Every attendee was surprised with a gift certificate – a day pass for a winter sport (cross country, snowshoeing or tubing) at Soldier Hollow.

Thank you to all the Friends who joined us and helped create such a wonderful evening. And a special thank you to Howard and Susan Peterson, Wendy Nord, and Chris Pironi of Soldier Hollow for their support, generous gift certificates, and the use of the Lodge for our party. - Michele Carr, Activities Director

WEBSITE CHANGES:

In the spring, Friends website will have a new look. With input from the Board on how we want the website to look, Ken McConnell will be working on updating the site to

better present information and make the website easier to navigate. We would like your ideas too. Look at the website (www.friendsofwasatch.org), and if you have any suggestions, please let me know. -Kris Beer

Full Moon Snowshoe Hikes

On Friday night January 9th, the Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park once again hosted our annual Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. The event was well attended with over 80 participants. The night was clear and crisp with a stunning full moon that made the snow sparkle. Everyone that attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Delicious treats and warm drinks were served when the hikers returned to the Visitor Center.

Our next Snowshoe Hike will be this Friday evening, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. We will have beginner, intermediate and advanced groups. The \$5 fee for non-members covers the cost of refreshments. Friends members can also use snowshoes for no charge; for others there is a \$5.00 charge or bring your own. Ages 12 and older are invited to attend. No dogs please.



Meet at the Visitor's Center and dress warmly with layers, wear warm, comfortable boots for walking and bring a head lamp. Call Lucille Tuttle for reservations at 654-5150.

MEET FRIENDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Secretary, **Joanne Baker** and her husband, Bill, grew up in Southern Minnesota. When they were first married, they moved to Aspen, Colorado, to ski bum. They moved to Salt Lake City 35 years ago and have always loved Utah.

Joanne worked for Judge Memorial Catholic HS in Salt Lake for 22 years as a bookkeeper. She recently retired and is looking forward to spending more time in Midway. She enjoys skiing, golf and hiking. The Bakers have a son in Seattle, and a son and daughter-in-law in Salt Lake.

They still have lots of family in Minnesota and enjoy going back to visit and spend time at the lakes.

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Carol Link, Membership Co-Director retired here from Long Beach CA a little over two years ago. While there, she was appointed to the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission and served for 10 years, 3 of them as Chairman.

She was also a member of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee. She volunteered for a year helping put on pre-Olympic volleyball tournaments. She was then hired by a name well know here in Park City, Rolf Engen who was the Commissioner of Volleyball in '84 Olympics.

Preserving nature always is at top of her support list. Member of Greenpeace and World Wildlife when they were considered radical.

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Judy Huhn, Membership Co-Director, and her husband John live east of Heber City. They retired here from Chicago in 2002. They love to ski, golf and hike. John loves to fish. They also travel frequently to visit family members living in the Midwest and Texas.

Change in Membership Renewal Notice

Beginning in February and each month thereafter, we will use email to notify members about their membership renewal. This is a more cost effective way to send renewal notices. We will write "FOW Renewal Notice" in the subject line of the email so that you can readily see it. Email renewal notices will be sent from either Judy Huhn: judyjohnhuhn@msn.com or Carol Link: carol_link@msn.com, membership co-directors. You may want to add these addresses to your safe list so that you will be sure to get your renewal notice. Please keep a lookout for your notice during the coming year and help us save time and money on renewal notices by responding to our email renewal notice.

Financial Subcommittee Formed

Composed of Lucille Tuttle, Elizabeth Ducoff, and Katy White, the subcommittee has three assignments: to review the organizations 2008 income and expenditures and then prepare a proposed budget for 2009; to review assignments and work of current officers and Board members and prepare job descriptions and responsibility statements for each; to review and update the organization's bylaws. The subcommittee presented a proposed 2009 budget for review at the January Board meeting.

Note: Lucille Tuttle, past president, will remain on the board as FOW Representative to the Friends of Utah State Parks and also FOW Historian.



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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:



Coming Attractions — Mark Your Calendars

Friends Full Moon Snowshoe Hikes

Friday, February 6 and Friday, March 13

7 pm at the Visitor Center, refreshments following

For more details, see articles inside Newsletter

FOW Board Meetings

February 18, March 18, April 15

5 pm at the Visitor Center

All Members Welcome

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.