

FRANKLIN
MOUNTAIN
WILDERNESS
COALITION

JULY 2016

NEWSLETTER



July, 2016 Meeting

July 20th - 6:30 PM

New Location

Scott Cutler's Home
112 Colina Alta Dr. - El Paso

About The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition was formed in 1978 and played a central role in the events that led to the establishment of Franklin Mountains State Park in 1979. The Coalition consists of organizations and individuals united in their concern for the Franklins in Texas and New Mexico and dedicated to:

- (1) preserving the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Mountains;*
- (2) protecting the plant and animal resources of the Mountains and preserving the whole range as an intact ecosystem;*
- (3) stimulating appreciation of the natural values of the Mountains and promoting understanding of their biological, cultural and geological features; and*
- (4) encouraging recreational, scientific and educational uses of the Mountains consistent with preserving their scenic beauty and wilderness character.*

Header Photo: <http://tpwd.texas.gov>

Word from the President

Welcome, Everyone, to the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition's July, 2016, newsletter.

The summer heat is upon us with triple-digit temperatures. While it can be hard to get out when it is this hot the mountains still hold unexpected surprises. Lots of birds and other animals are out for a while after the sun rises which is a great time to be out yourself. Yet, even in the heat of the day, you can still see lizards and birds moving about so there is always something to see. Our mountains and the State Park are a real treasure trove of nature and we are so fortunate to have it in our own backyard.

The next meeting of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition will be on Wednesday, July 20. Here are the details.

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Scott Cutler's home – 112 Colina Alta Dr, El Paso

Directions: from I-10, take the Resler off ramp. Turn right on Mesa Street, then left on Alto Mesa (at Savers). Go up the hill to Colina Alta and turn right. It will be the 4th house on the left with the desert landscaping.

If you have questions, call Scott at 915-494-2193.

Please join us. All are welcome and your input is very important.

Hoping to see you in the Franklins.

Scott Cutler
President
915-494-2193



Check out our facebook page, "like" us, and stay up to date with all of the events and activities happening at the park: <http://on.fb.me/Rpt3ul>

www.franklinmountains.org

Coming Events

The Franklin Mountains State Park has many wonderful opportunities to get you involved.

For more information on any of the events listed below, contact:

Ranger Weickhardt:
(915) 566-6441 Adrianna.weickhardt@tp-wd.texas.gov

July

Fri., July 22: 6:00 a.m. – Women's Hike to West Cottonwood Springs

Sat., July 23: 8:00 a.m. – Copper Prospect Mine Tour

August

Sat., Aug 6: 7:00 a.m. – Guided Beginner's Mountain Bike Ride

Sat., Aug 20: 6:00 a.m. – Bark in the Park hike on Lower Sunset Trail

Sat., Aug 20: Chihuahuan Desert Chili Challenge (Chili Cook Off) at Tom Mays Unit

Fri., Aug 26: 6:00 a.m. – Women's Hike on the Maze Trails

Sat., Aug 27: 8:00 a.m. – Dare to Dream Yoga in the Park: w/Rachelle & Aman

September

Sat., September 3: 8:00 a.m. – Guided Beginner's Mountain Bike Ride

Sept. 9 – 11th: Franklin Mountains Trail Runs (50K, 13.1 HALF, 6 MILER, 10K & 5K)

Sat., Sept. 17: Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta

Sat., Sept 24: 8:00 a.m. – Dare to Dream Yoga in the Park: w/Rachelle & Aman

Photo: Scott Cutler



Meeting with Officials in Washington, D.C., Regarding Castner Range National Monument

On June 15th and 16th a delegation of local supporters of making Castner Range a National Monument were in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and with officials in the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The purpose was to follow up from previous visits, provide answers to earlier agency questions, and provide updates on how our effort is going and the continued strong support the community is showing for National Monument designation before President Obama leaves office. The group included Judy Ackerman, Stephanie Otero, Scott Cutler, and Angel Pena.

The first meeting was with Senator Cornyn's staff. They indicated that the Senator can not outwardly back the effort but he will not try to block it either with is a good thing. This was followed by a meeting with Congressman O'Rourke and his staff to review how efforts are going in D.C. While there are still some agency questions, the strong local effort was mentioned as a vital piece of making this effort a success as public support is a huge part of whether or not a proposed monument is established. That local support is undeniable with over 22,000 letters collected in support of this effort.

The CEQ, DOI and BLM meetings were filled with agency questions for which we were able to provide answers or alternatives that should allay their concerns. Additionally, at all of these meetings, we showed artwork that El Paso children did in their classrooms. Thanks to the work of Stephanie Otero who coordinated this effort with the El Paso Independent School District we were able to show everyone the incredible paintings and cards the kids did. Without fail, everyone there was impressed. I doubt they had ever seen anything like this associated with a National Monument request. You can see some of the artwork on the Castner Range Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/castnerrange/>

While there are still agency questions and concerns that need to be addressed, we all came away feeling that there is still a very good chance that we can get Castner Range preserved forever as a National Monument. We still need to keep working on gathering letters of support which you can do by going on-line at www.castner4ever.org and clicking on either the link to the e-letter or by printing a hard copy, signing it, and getting it to The Frontera Land Alliance address on the page. You can also volunteer to help with a myriad of behind the scenes activities that are vital to helping us keep this effort going. The contact information on the www.castner4ever.org site will give you the contact number.



Contact Us

For questions, comments or to be added to our list of subscribers, please contact Jason Brewer at brewerjlz@gmail.com. We are also social. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

BECOME A MEMBER

Individual membership in the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition is open to all who share our goal of preserving the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Franklin Mountains. Dues are payable annually in January. Join Us!

- Student, \$5.00
- Individual, \$20.00
- Family, \$30.00
- Contributing, \$25 - \$100
- Sustaining, \$101 and up
- Non-profit/civic organizations FREE

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Daytime Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Evening Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Your contribution is tax deductible
Please make checks payable to:
"Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition"
and send to:

Pat White, Treasurer
FMWC, 10525 Texwood
El Paso, TX 79925

FMWC BOARD

Scott Cutler *President*

Vacant *Vice President*

Judy Ackerman *Secretary*

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At Large Members

Raul Amaya

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition

Borderland Mountain Bike Association • Border Toasters, Toastmasters International
Bordersenses • Celebration Of Our Mountains • Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
• Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue • Eco-Club EPCC
El Paso Archaeological Society • El Paso Cactus And Rock Club • El Paso County Master
Gardeners • El Paso Native Plant Society • El Paso Regional Group Of The Sierra Club
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society • El Paso Youth Symphony • Environmental
Advocates at UTEP • Friends of the Arroyo • Friends Of The Rio Bosque • League Of
Women Voters Of El Paso • Mesilla Valley Audubon Society • Mountain Park Community
Association • Photography Enthusiasts Of El Paso • Southern New Mexico Group Of The
Sierra Club • Southwest Environmental Center • Skyline Optimist Club Of El Paso •
Sunrise Neighborhood Association • Trans Pecos Chapter Of The Texas Master Naturalists
• Vista Hills Rotary Club • National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 1473 •
Trinity First United Methodist Men • Castner Heights Neighborhood Association •
Rio Grande Soaring Association, LLC • Palisades Neighborhood Association

DONATE TO PROTECT CASTNER RANGE as a national monument.

You can make a lasting contribution to protect Castner Range as natural open space with your tax-deductible donation to the Castner Fund. Send checks, payable to "Frontera Land Alliance", to 3800 N. Mesa, Suite A2-238, El Paso, TX 79902 & note that your gift is for the Castner Fund in the memo line.

<http://fronteralandalliance.org/>

Save Our Sierras (SOS) Update by Christi DeBates

There has been a lot of positive action this past month concerning the purchase of the Knapp land, which is over 600 acres of privately owned land, east of Franklin Mountain State Park, between Hondo Pass and McKelligon Canyon.

Save Our Sierras (SOS), a committee of the FMWC, has been working diligently to convince the city to purchase the Knapp land to stop further development and preserve it for all El Pasoans to enjoy.

On June 28th, after a motion was made by Representative Carl Robinson, the City Council voted 7 to 1 to authorize the City Manager to explore options for purchase of the Knapp land that may lead to negotiations with the landowners. This is very exciting news and definitely a great first step to what could be a lengthy process.

SOS members attended Representative Robinson's Breakfast Meeting on July 1st to thank him for his support and give him balloons and a standing ovation.

However, the SOS mission is not complete. In 2010, City Council directed staff to negotiate for this same land, but nothing happened. Members are determined to continue their efforts by collecting petition signatures, attending City Council Meetings and meeting with Representatives, to show that we are serious and are not going away.

If you would like to join us, we meet most Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the IHOP on Hondo Pass.

Everyone is welcome.



SOS member Marilyn Guida presenting balloons to Rep Carl Robinson in gratitude for his part in the City Council vote to begin looking at options to purchase and preserve the Knapp land

FRANKLIN
MOUNTAINS



WILDERNESS
COALITION

Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition
c/o Pat White, Treasurer
10525 Texwood Avenue
El Paso, TX 79925

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, Texas
Permit #2716



For questions please contact
The Frontera Land Alliance
Phone: 915-351-8352
E-mail: Janae@FronteraLandAlliance.org

Come and join the #Castner4Ever crew for a monumental hike at the Archaeology Museum, on land surrounded by Castner Range. Come learn about the biology, the geology, and how you can help protect El Paso's beautiful Castner Range.

Details: Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 8 a.m. Please meet in the El Paso Archaeology Museum parking lot (4301 Transmountain Road, El Paso, TX 79924). Dress for the climate, bring water and wear closed-toed shoes as the surface is uneven and rough.

IN CELEBRATION OF
LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK