

# FRIENDS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA FORESTS



## NEWSLETTER

September 2019

### Birding at our Mogillon Rim Exclosures

by Ed Clark

FoNAF has assumed the task of maintaining three 25 acre exclosures on the Mogillon Rim in the Coconino NF. These exclosures were initially built as an extensive multi-year research project headed by Thomas E. Martin, Professor and Senior Research Scientist, USGS and University of Montana.

Although the study focused on climate change, effect of browsing by ungulates on regenerating aspen and canyon maples, and the decline of plant and animal populations, this short article will focus on the importance of bird habitat within and immediately adjacent to these three exclosures.



Red-Faced Warbler

On several trips during the late summer I was able to observe 26 bird species within or immediately adjacent to the exclosures. Several of the migrating species such as Wilson's Warblers and Townsend's Warblers, are coming from Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, on their way to Mexico and Central America. These birds are dependent on the dense foliage to feed and rest on their long hazardous journey.

The Red-faced Warbler, a personal favorite, is a commonly found nesting Maderan migrant in the exclosures. The warbler migrates in the early summer to steep canyons and hillsides in the Coconino NF where the dense understory vegetation, particularly found within the exclosures, provides protection from predators. Although a ground nester, the bird forages for insects in the mixed forest canopy. The Red-faced warbler can also be found in highly selective Flagstaff environs. In late summer the bird migrates to winter in mountainous areas of southern Mexico and Central America, only to return to northern Arizona forests the following summer to repeat the cycle.

This unique habitat preserved within the exclosures deserves continued protection for a variety of birds and plants.

## PSAR at Humphreys Trailhead by Bruce Belman

With the Labor Day crowd approaching 250 people we ended our official 2019 Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) season. It has been in all ways a grand success with FoNAF volunteers contributing 325 hours reducing Coconino County Search & Rescue calls for service on Humphreys this summer.

While it is not possible to directly attribute the low number of rescue incidents to PSAR, it certainly is suggestive that our efforts are making a difference. Several individuals deserve mention for their outstanding level of participation in this program.

- **Bill and Cheryl Webster**, USFS Camp Elden volunteers spent every summer weekend greeting hikers with their special southern charm and hospitality,
- Contributing eighty-five hours to the effort, **Bill Waters** is our star volunteer this year,
- Even after volunteering in mid-July, **Wayne Nelson** still put in approximately fifty hours.



Bill Waters

Eight other FoNAF members participated as well, each

spending their personal weekend time towards the success of PSAR 2019. Thanks to each and every one of you.

This year, as in years past, we will add a few weekend days in late September and early October to serve forest visitors seeking the best aspen color displays. An on-line sign-up is available at:

<https://doodle.com/poll/mr5d474s9xug9bs9>

## **Back Country Permits Program Ends**

The USFS had decided to eliminate the Kachina Peaks Winter Access Permit program, otherwise known as back country permits. These forms will no longer be required to visit the wilderness outside Snowbowl Ski Resort boundaries.

FoNAF has provided volunteers over the past several years to issue these permits on weekends at Snowbowl's Agassiz Lodge and this will no longer be on our winter agenda. What will we do with all the free time? The Forest Service will think of something!

## **What Gets Placed on the Forest Often Remains on the Forest** by Tom Mackin, President

As the title unfortunately states, for almost 100 years now this has been the common practice when it comes to barbed wire range fences, corrugated sheet metal trick tanks and more recently various iterations of aspen or wet meadow protective exclosure fences. Sadly these practices have resulted in an unsightly mess and in some instances a definite hazard to wildlife, livestock, hikers and pets.

In a famous Robert Frost poem "Mending Wall" he states that good fences make good neighbors and when properly built and maintained, this is usually the case. Unfortunately when poor design or construction coupled with a subsequent lack of maintenance, these structures quickly deteriorate into an unsightly hazard.

In order to provide some remedy to this practice, FoNAF has recently focused on these fences. Whenever we are made aware of one of these

hazards it is quickly added to the Aspen Team's to-do list. Barbed wire fences start with detaching the wire from T-posts and stays. Then a power winder is used to tightly roll up several strands of the wire, often up to several hundred yards in length. The same process is used to gather high tension wire by manually turning a jenny (pictured below). Once again several strands can be rolled up at one time.



When it comes to woven wire field fence, it is cut into a manageable lengths and then folded or rolled for pickup. Once these items are gathered, they're loaded onto a dump truck or pickup truck bed, tightly secured and driven to the bone yard at the Flagstaff Ranger Station and unloaded. Periodically this pile of scrap metal is then hauled to a metal recycling center off Leupp Road where it is properly prepared for repurposing. Over the last few years, FoNAF has disposed of over 10 tons of this material in this manner and each year we always have 2-3 of these tasks on our project list.



Roll of old barbed wire



## **FoNAF Assisting with Brolliar Park Cabin Restoration (Part 2)**

In the last newsletter an overview of the scope and early stages of restoring the historic homestead cabin at Brolliar Park located approximately 5 miles south of Mormon Lake Village was provided by Jeremy Haines, District Archaeologist for the Flagstaff Ranger District. FoNAF became involved with this project at his request and we have had ongoing participation over the summer.

As promised, this is part two of the restoration project report from FoNAF's perspective. Following our early involvement of assisting with transporting logs, clearing fencing, and removing debris we continued to help until the completion of the project in late July. Perimeter wire fencing was replaced or rebuilt by the Aspen Team.



**Placing T-post for new fence**



**Building new log worm fence**

Some of the un-used cabin logs were used to build a “log worm” fence across high traffic dirt roads to preclude off road vehicle use.

The story of Dave Brolliar, his family, and to a certain degree the cabin he built on his homestead is very interesting. We have written a brief historical summary from a study commissioned by Flagstaff Ranger District to learn about Brolliar, the

homestead, and its subsequent history. The original study document was prepared by our own FoNAF member Pat Stein. Here are the highlights:

## **The Broliar Family History**

The story of Dave Broliar and his Arizona homestead is a convoluted tale of kinship that begins in the Midwest. David Broliar was born in Dubuque County, Iowa, on June 24, 1872.

Turmoil uprooted the family and set the stage for David's move westward. The first public record of him in Arizona is a school document from October 9, 1882. By that date the teenager was enrolled in the Beaver Creek School south of Stoneman Lake. The activities and movements of David Broliar between 1882 and 1890 are poorly documented. A family memoir recalls that he and his brother captured and tamed mustangs for the U.S. Army in Arizona during that period (Durham 1994). David honed skills as a horseman that would serve him well through life.

As the federal government became increasingly active in land management during the early twentieth century, the nineteenth century notion of homesteading did not die. The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 opened agricultural lands within the Forest Reserves/National Forests to private patenting. The purpose of the law was to put tillable land in the hands of farmers who would cultivate it and not use it merely as a ranch headquarters for running livestock.

The federal government's liberalized laws and regulations created a public land boom during the 1910s. Dave Broliar was among the crop of new applicants. In 1910, at the age of 43, he selected land for a future homestead in the parkland. The spot was situated about midway between Mormon Lake and his sister's home at Stoneman Lake, some five linear miles from either point.



Dave Broliar established residence on the property in the fall of 1910. He camped in a tent until building a house there in 1911. On December 9, 1911, he submitted a homestead application for a tract containing 134 acres and was later amended to 158 acres. That is the acreage when patented in 1920.

If the Broliar homestead was unimpressive in the summer of 1914, it soon showed unmistakable signs of progress. Dave brought 23 acres under cultivation by the close of that year, and successfully grew oats, potatoes, and barley.



David Broliar (right) circa 1890 (Credit: Durham 1994).

## **Broliar Park Cabin becomes Historical Landmark**

The property remained in the hands of the extended Broliar family for six years after the homesteader's death in 1938. The Broliar homestead was eventually sold in October 1944. The purchase price was \$3500 for the 158 parcel "together with all improvements and machinery thereon." The buyers were Albert Oran Talbot and his wife, Cora Irene Talbot. It was probably during the Talbot tenure that Broliar's old stock tank(s) was enlarged. A wide berm was placed along the southwest end of the homestead, while a ditch was excavated along the southern end.

From 1972 to 1975 the federal government engaged in negotiations to transfer ownership of the homestead to the Forest Service. A real estate and investment company initiated the transaction by first contacting the Talbots, who showed a willingness to sell. The company proposed that the homestead be offered to the government in exchange for a 40-acre Forest Service tract near the rapidly growing community of Oak Creek Village, south of Sedona, Arizona.

The transaction was beneficial because it would be monetarily favorable, would consolidate National Forest ownership, and would bring a critical wildlife area into federal ownership. The government agreed to the exchange, and the deal was struck in 1975.

The old Broliar homestead remains part of the Coconino National Forest today. Its century-old log cabin has not been used for many decades except by casual day visitors and wildlife watchers. The proposed preservation of the log cabin will clearly stop further deterioration and may be a first step in returning the lonely cabin on the Coconino to more active use.

# Someone to know.....

## Bill Kluwin



Bill's tenure with FoNAF began when he volunteered for a public works day in 2013 building an exclosure on FS 151 near Hart Prairie to protect willows. His involvement has gained him board membership and the respect of the Aspen Team members for his knowledge of the outdoors and especially the native plants we encounter in the field. Bill also brings interesting ideas and suggestions to our projects that help the Aspen Team really think through our processes for the best approach.

Here's a brief overview of Bill's background hitting on the highlights (no low lights):

- He grew up in Whitefish Bay, WI, making him an “east sider” in Milwaukee and attended Marquette High School, a Jesuit school in downtown Milwaukee, comprised of “west siders and east siders.”
- 1968: (a significant year for Bill)
  - He graduated from Univ. of Wisconsin Madison in 1968.
  - He married Gisela who he met on spring break skiing in Switzerland. At that time he was a foreign exchange student, attending the University of Freiburg, in the Black Forest region.
- Bill taught grade school for four years in the inner city in Chicago.
- Graduated from Georgetown Law School in 1975 (he became one of those) and began practicing estate planning law.
- Bill and Gisela moved to Flagstaff in 2002 and subsequently retired in 2010.

Both he and Gisela have a love of the outdoors and find the Colorado Plateau to be a unique and multi-faceted area to explore and enjoy plenty of



outdoor opportunities. Travel to countries and states beyond Arizona are also a big part of their lives, most often for backpacking.

Besides FoNAF, Bill volunteers for the Park Service at Grand Canyon Park working with the Fish Crew and the Veg Crew to restore habitat and monitor fish populations. He's made several trips down the Colorado River as well as numerous trips to the South and North Rim to pull weeds and work in the greenhouse.

Bill is especially interested in FoNAF's work along the Mogollon Rim due to its diversity of habitats, plants, birds and animals. In the June 2019 newsletter he provided a feature article about FoNAF's new Montana exclosures near the rim. It's a good read.

Here's some insight from Bill on his involvement with FoNAF and some of his other volunteer groups:

“My favorite projects are those such as T6 and the Brolliar Park Cabin where we are working with other groups and our goals are multifaceted. For example, with T6 we are restoring meadow lands, thereby improving the habitat for plants and birds. At Brolliar Park we are bringing back a piece of history.

Also, when I mention the work for Grand Canyon National Park, I enjoy that work for the same reason I enjoy FoNAF, especially when we get a chance to go out with the younger generation of employees with their interest in botany, biology or hydrology. I am inspired each time by their knowledge and enthusiasm, and I usually learn something new myself.”

Thanks Bill for sharing your extensive knowledge of the outdoors with all the groups you volunteer with, but most particularly for your sustaining dedication to FoNAF and the Aspen Team's projects and mission.

## Native Plant/Pollinator Garden at Flagstaff ranger Station by Dave Downes

In early July FoNAF was approached by Katie Landry the head of the Botany Team (think invasive weeds) to see if we would be interested in joining with her team to redo the area in front of the Flagstaff Ranger Station to create a native plant/pollinator garden. After discussion among the executive committee we agreed.



Flagstaff Ranger Station

Our first step was to assist the Botany Team in applying for a grant from the Flagstaff Beautification in Action Committee (BPAC). On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Katie and President Tom Mackin defended Katie's proposal before the Committee at City Hall. Due to the Botany Team's excellent project overview documents and an informative presentation, the \$2500 grant was approved.

Work has already been underway while the seasonal members of the Botany Team are still available. Six FoNAF members worked alongside them on September 10<sup>th</sup> to put a large variety of native plants in the ground. Next the Botany Team will finish installing the drip system, sow wildflower seeds, place signage, and top dress the whole area with a layer of mulch. These final steps should be completed before October.



The objective is that the 500-600 visitors to the station each month will be greeted on each side of the entrance by an attractive garden of native plants and pollinators that are individually identified. If sufficient funds remain we plan is to improve the island in the center of the driveway, probably next spring.



## Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting followed by a FoNAF Board meeting will be on October 9, 2019. It will be at the Flagstaff Ranger District offices conference room across from the Flagstaff Mall at 4:00 pm.

### FoNAF Board of Directors

Tom Mackin, President	Ed Clark	Curt Knight
Bruce Belman, Vice President	Tony DeCou	Jim McGeorge
Bob Dyer, Secretary	Jim Hoyne	Bill Waters
Dave Downes, Treasurer	Bill Kluwin	

### Coconino National Forest information:

District Rangers: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/about-forest/offices>  
Website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino/>