

Explore Spring Ecosystems in the Patagonia Mountains

Friday, April 18 – Sunday, April 20, 2014

Spend Easter weekend in the borderlands south of Patagonia for the second Springs Assessment trip of 2014! The Patagonia Mountains boast an amazing amount of biological diversity and continue to be under threat from multiple mining proposals. Join fellow volunteers and staff to study the ecology of the area through the lens of water in the desert, vital to all life. This information will be used to protect, manage and restore these critical water resources.



Please RSVP to Louise Misztal at Louise@skyislandalliance.org or 520-624-7080 ext. 19. This event is free and no prior experience is necessary.

BACKGROUND

In conjunction with land managers and planners in southern Arizona, we are focused on the Santa Cruz River valley for this next batch of springs assessments. As the Santa Cruz starts in the San Rafael Valley, dips down southwest into Mexico and then curves back north to the U.S., the Patagonia Mountains (and adjacent Sierra San Antonio in Sonora) serve as a defining geographic cornerstone in the Sky Island Region. We will focus more specifically on the area just northeast of Nogales above the village of Kino Springs.

TRIP SCHEDULE

- **Friday, April 18, 4:00 – 5:00 pm:** Meet SIA staff at the campsite off of Duquesne Road on the west side of the Patagonia Mtns.: <http://goo.gl/maps/2NOay> (directions below). Set up camp and enjoy the evening. If individuals are interested in caravanning, they can meet SIA staff at the Historic Y at 2pm (<http://thehistoricy.com/location/>).
- **Saturday, April 19, 8:00 am:** Early breakfast with a quick refresher on use of spring assessment equipment. Then split up into teams and work through the day, returning to camp around 5 pm.
- **Sunday, April 20, 8:00 am:** Continue assessment work through the afternoon, then pack up and head home. We will try and be back to Tucson around 5pm.

THE WORK

Spring assessments will require hiking. There is limited road access, so please plan to hike at least 3-4 miles in one day with part or all of that being off-trail and potentially in steep terrain. For spring assessments, we are looking for volunteers with tracking skills, plant identification skills, invertebrate identification skills, and strong hikers. Volunteers do not need to have prior training to participate.

CAMP LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

- This site does not have potable water, so each participant should bring their own for drinking and washing (good idea to bring more than you think you will need).
- Carpooling is encouraged: SIA will have 1-2 spots in our vehicle for volunteers to tag along. Contact Louise to make arrangements.

Directions to our Campsite in the Patagonia Mountains:

(About 1.5 – 2 hours from Tucson)

Directions from Tucson:

- Take I-19 south towards Nogales

- Exit at Grand Ave. (exit 8) in Nogales (left exit from I-19)
 - Travel approx. 4.2 miles down Grand to the exit for Hwy. 82
 - Take 82 east to Duquesne Rd. (FS 61) (Royal Road Market on the right side of the road has gas, tamales and other last minute stuff)
 - Turn right on Duquesne (after crossing the Santa Cruz River; look for the school on right side); when you pass the Coronado Nat. Forest sign you are approx. 4 miles from campsite turn off
 - Turn right at FS 4763; we will be within a half mile down that road
- **Look for SIA green signs****

Directions from Sierra Vista & Patagonia:

- Take Hwy 90 north to Hwy 82; turn left on 82
 - Travel on 82 through Sonoita and Patagonia to Duquesne Rd. (FS 61)
 - Turn left on Duquesne. When you pass the Coronado Nat. Forest sign you are approx. 4 miles from campsite turn off
 - Turn right at FS 4763; we will be within a half mile down that road
- **Look for SIA green signs****

WHAT TO BRING

- All tents, sleeping bags, mattresses, stoves, etc. that you might bring on any normal car camping trip. Larger backpacks in which to carry shared springs assessment gear are a plus. **NOTE: Expect cold temperatures this time of year**
- Several gallons of water per person plus all the food you'll need for a minimum of five meals out, plus snacks.
- Sturdy footwear (ex. hiking boots, sandals) plus clothing for wet and cold weather, binoculars, field guides, etc.
- Transportation to and from the camp area to the work site will be provided by SIA
- Volunteer Agreement/Waiver – Only needs to be filled out once per calendar year. Click here to download:
http://www.skyislandalliance.org/vol_agreement_waiver.pdf

PROVIDED BY SIA

- Tools, basic camp kitchen set-up including stove, firewood for camp fire, extra water, cameras, GPS, data sheets, maps.
- SIA has been to this work site several times for each of the past several years and is happy to provide information on the surrounding area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This trip will be led by Louise Misztal. Contact her to RSVP at Louise@skyislandalliance.org or 520-624-7080, ext. 19.
- Due to the sensitive nature of springs, dogs are not allowed.