

(March 28 - TUCSON, AZ) Fiddlin' Foresters perform in beautiful Sabino Canyon

The Fiddlin' Foresters presented a 90-minute conservation education program to a large, enthusiastic audience at the Sabino Canyon Recreation area on Saturday, March 28. It was our first appearance at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Music in the Canyon*, sponsored by the [Friends of Sabino Canyon](http://sabinocanyon.org/) (link: <http://sabinocanyon.org/>) and the [Coronado National Forest](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/) (link: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/>).



*Music in the Canyon* is a wonderful night of entertainment in the unique setting of Sabino Canyon. Visitors hear a wide range of gifted musicians throughout the evening, select unique items from the silent auction and enjoy tasty food and beverages. Kids of all ages listened to a fantastic storyteller bringing local legends to life.

“*Music in the Canyon* is a celebration of an important partnership between Friends of Sabino Canyon, the Forest Service, volunteers and sponsors,” said **Sherry Tune**, Deputy District Ranger of the **Santa Catalina Ranger District**. “Each year we gather to cherish our desert oasis and to have fun listening to music. The public is invited and we always have a big crowd.”



Beautiful Sabino Canyon on the Coronado National Forest is one of our nation's treasures



Southern Arizona is distinguished by Saguaro cactus and crystal blue sky

The wonderful night of music was arranged by Coronado National Forest employee **Heidi Schewel**. In addition to the Fiddlin' Foresters, the evening included performances by the **Desert Sons** ([Link: http://thedesertsons.com/](http://thedesertsons.com/)), a western trio, the **Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus** ([link: http://www.boyschorus.org/](http://www.boyschorus.org/)) and **Arco**, comprised of lifelong musicians **Dale Clark** and **Ken Alexander**.



Some 1,200 people headed out to Sabino Canyon Saturday for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Music in the Canyon, co-hosted by the Friends of Sabino Canyon and the U.S. Forest Service.  
Photo by Mamta Popat / Arizona Daily Star



Fiddlin' Foresters stressed the importance of conservation partnerships

The Fiddlin' Foresters stressed the value of public land and the importance of partnerships to help manage special places. We talked and sang about the history of conservation, responsible recreation use, water, invasive species, loss of open space, fire prevention and the importance of getting kids in the woods. We were flattered to receive a standing ovation from the more 1000 in the audience.

Sherry Tune and Heidi Schewel took us on a tour of incredibly beautiful and rich Sabino Canyon. We learned of the future challenges and difficulty of managing this fragile resource. "So many people love the canyon, and it will be those people that help provide the necessary stewardship in the future," said Tune.



Deputy District Ranger Sherry Tune and Fiddlin' Forester Jane Leche discuss the many management challenges of Sabino Canyon





Spring in the desert is beautiful! It was especially so because we left Denver in the aftermath of a huge spring blizzard which nearly shut down the Denver airport. The warm, balmy air and blue sky of Arizona was a nice, but brief, relief from the snow and cold of springtime in the Rockies.

As we travel around our country, we are constantly impressed with the vast diversity of our national forests and the incredible challenges that face local managers. Yet the commitment to address these challenges by managers, partners, and volunteers is consistent everywhere we go.



National forests provide such a huge diversity of landscapes...from huge Saguaro cactus to Giant Redwoods...deserts to swamps...mountain tops to valleys...from sea to sea and border to border...all owned by and managed for the American people. What a treasure we all have!



The Fiddlin' Foresters give their best Saguaro cactus impression