

THURSDAY D HIKES—MARCH 2020

March 5. Beardsley Trail (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D. This is 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 300 ft. The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. About a mile in is a very odd crested Saguaro on the right. Near the turnaround point is a very tall Saguaro (30') with no arms. The hike ends at a dry waterfall area with some interesting rock formations. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Trail Condition – Average hiking trails. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Beardsley-Trail>

Directions to Ramada 8 (Desert Tortoise), Lake Pleasant Reg. Park

Drive north on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road and turn right (North).

Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.

Pay \$7.00 park fee then turn right on South Park Road.

Turn left on Desert Tortoise Road.

Trailhead is on the right.

Restrooms are at this trailhead.

March 12. Ford Canyon View (White Tank Mountains). Rating D, 4 mi out & back on the same trail with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. This is a scenic hike to a point with views of the white rocks in Ford Canyon. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park

Take 303 North (right).

Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West).

Turn right on Cotton.

Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads (except from the library which is \$2.00 per hiker).

Restrooms are at the trailhead for each of the hikes (inside the library for the hikes from the library).

Ford Canyon Trail trailhead parking is at Picnic area #7. Take the Waddell Trail across to the Ford Canyon Trail.

March 19. Hassayampa River Preserve (Wickenburg). Rating D. This is a series of short trails totaling 3.2 miles with one hill overlooking the preserve that has an elevation gain of about 200 ft. The preserve is one of the two areas where the Hassayampa River flows above ground. There are lots of tall palm and cottonwood trees as well as lush undergrowth. Over 50 bird species call this home for part of the year. The best time to go is spring (March). Open F/S/S May 15 to Sept 15. Open W/T/F/S/S Sept 15 to May 15. There are restrooms in

the visitor's center. Park fee is \$5.00 per person, or a Maricopa County Parks pass. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

Directions to Wickenburg - Hassayampa River Preserve

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60.

The Preserve is on the left near Milepost 114.

Distance is 80 miles RT.

There are restrooms at the preserve.

Entrance fee is \$5.00 per person.

The Preserve opens at 8:00 AM Sept-May.

March 26. Toothaker/Dysart/Butterfield Loop

(Estrella Mountains).Rating D. This is a 4.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 ft. The Toothaker (TH) trailhead is on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. This is a shared trailhead with the Rainbow Valley Trail (RB). Very soon after starting on the path Toothaker Trail (TH) will split off to the south (left). In 1.1 miles you will come to the Dysart Trail (DS) junction. Turn left to go to Butterfield trail. Turn left again on Butterfield to get back to Toothaker. Turn right on Toothaker to return to the trailhead. Park on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. There are restrooms on this side with running water. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approx 20 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Toothaker-Gadsen-Butterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)

South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.

Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.