

Keeping Track of Our Wildlife

By Cliff Hirsch

Did you know that the Patagonia Mountains are the home to coati, grey fox, rabbit, deer, skunk, puma, bobcat, ringtail cats, black bear, coyote, turkey, cottontail, javelina and the elusive jaguar and ocelot?

Last month, I had the privilege of attending a four-day Wildlife Tracking Workshop in the Patagonia Mountains. The Workshop was hosted by the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and run by the extremely talented and knowledgeable staff of Sky Island Alliance: Jessica Lamberton-Moreno and Sergio Avila. There were 28 attendees from the Patagonia area, Tucson, Sells, Yuma and New Mexico.

The workshop was held in Corral Canyon with side trips throughout the Patagonia Mountains. We learned techniques for locating, identifying, and measuring wildlife tracks. In the course



of several days, we found and identified tracks of most of the mammals listed above. When there were no tracks, we learned to look for other signs such as scat (the bear does s... in the woods), scratches on tree trunks and kill remains.

In addition to identification, we learned GPS setup and use, map reading, plaster casting of tracks and techniques for setup and monitoring remote wildlife cameras.

Lunchtime at the campsite consisted of great food and guest speakers. Rod Mondt, one of the founders of Sky Island Alliance, spoke on environmental advocacy. George Farmer, owner of Axle Canyon Preserve in New Mexico gave a talk, and Wendy Russell, member of Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, explained the threat to the Patagonia Mountains from renewed interest in mineral extraction.

Each evening around the campfire, we watched PowerPoint presentations on the van "movie screen," thanks to a generator. All the attendees received Certificates of Completion and were invited to become part of the Madrean Archipelago Biological Assessment Team which is compiling a database of all mammals in the region.

Patagonia Community Youth Tennis Fundraiser Champs



From left: Danny Schrimpf, champs Dale Greene & Jim Johnson, runner-ups Gary Romig and Jim Schrimpf, and Iliana Castro.

The Eighth Annual Patagonia Community Youth Tennis Fundraiser was held on April 13 and 14. The weather was fine and the competition keen and friendly. Tournament Champs were as follows: Women's Doubles: Chris Courtland & Lorena Villa; Mixed Doubles: Anita and David Clovesko-Wharton; Men's Doubles, Tier II: Jon Larsen & Jason Schreiber; Men's Doubles, Tier I: Dale Greene & Jim Johnson. .