

The Great Outdoors: Students learn history of Dolan Springs Trail System followed by 4-mile hike

By Don Martin

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Kingman resident Jamie Weeks and Mt. Tipton Trail system founder Sue Baughman are all smiles at the celebration of the Mt. Tipton Trails day.

Don Martin/For Kingman Miner



The 6th grade class of Mt. Tipton Elementary School head off on Sue B Loop for the first part of their hike.

Don Martin/For the Miner



The 6th grade class at Mt. Tipton Elementary holds the Dolan Springs Trail System sign.
Don Martin/For the Miner



The Mt. Tipton Elementary School 6th grade class prepares to go on their hike.
Don Martin/Kingman Miner

The 6th grade class of the Mt. Tipton Elementary School recently participated in the school's annual celebration of the founding of the community's trail system. Here is a re-cap of the history of the Dolan Springs Trail System as presented by Mohave County District 4 Supervisor Don Martin to the class.

In 2008, under the watchful eye and encouragement of local resident Sue "Itchy Foot" Baughman, the Dolan Springs Trail System project started with a donation of 480 acres of public land. The Bureau of Land Management donated the property to Mohave County. The trails are Located in the northern end of the Mt. Tipton Wilderness Area in the Cerbat Mountains.

It was then that Baughman, along with a wide variety of volunteers, started working on the property that would be eventually be used by hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, bird watchers and nature lovers. Volunteers included boy scouts, local community volunteers, volunteers from Outdoor Arizona, and even prison labor. The project also received assistance from the National Parks Service Conservation Assistance Program along with members of the American Hiking Society Volunteers.

A total of five trails have been made, along with a cactus garden and a meditation circle, The first trail built was called the Sue. B. Loop in honor of Baughman. Other trails were built including the Cholla Loop, the Lost Mine trails, Mitten trail and T.C. Schroeder trail.

After the history lesson, students and staff gathered in the auditorium where members of the Mohave County Health Department led them in stretching exercises before the group headed out on the Sue B. Loop for a two-mile hike.

Dolan Springs resident Ian Greenberg led the hike. The group met at the Mitten Trail and Lost Mine Road intersection for lunch. After lunch Greenberg led the group up a hill that is affectionately called Ian's Mountain.

Then the student's finished up the event by hiking back to Mt. Tipton Elementary, a distance of more than four miles.

Dolan Springs Trail System Founder Sue Baughan was present during the event and was pleased to see the kids taking part in the celebration of the upcoming National Trails Day, which is held on the first Saturday of June.

For more information on the Dolan Springs Trail system go to info@dolanspringstrails.com.