



Skyline Serenity **HIKE** **Butcher Jones Trail**

At Saguaro Lake

WE HAVE A 2 TO 4 MILE HIKE ALONG A LAKESIDE TRAIL TO EXPERIENCE NATURE'S SPLENDOR.

4th SATURDAY
February 24, 2024

(\$8 Tonto Pass required per car → CARPOOL! Buy pass offsite @ Big 5, Walgreens on Power Road, etc.)

We Will Meet
9:45 at the Trailhead
Hike starts about 10AM

Directions:



Take Highway 87 North Toward Payson
OR - From Payson drive *South* on 87 !
Turn east at exit 199 [milepost 199]
About 3 miles down the paved Bush Highway,
turn left at Butcher Jones Beach sign, and
follow the 25 mph paved road for 2 miles down to
the PAVED Beach parking area.

Hike to Start about 10:00 am

BRING:
Newcomer, Water,
Snack/Lunch, & PMA

Let us know if you plan to hike
Chuck H. 480-236-4859

“The Wilderness is Open for Sharing”

History

Dr. Wilson W. Jones was born and educated as a doctor back east in Maryland and then migrated to Los Angeles, California. For several years around 1870, he and a partner operated a freighting business between California and Arizona. During that period, he married 18 year old Alcaria Montoya in Yuma. They built a home at 1008 E. Buckeye in Phoenix in 1879. His connection to the East Valley is through accounts of his having a ranch near Coon Bluff. Jones is also reported to have operated another ranch near Hidden Water Spring on Cottonwood Creek north of what is now Saguaro Lake (Butcher Jones Beach)

In the mid-19th century, he also owned mines in Arizona as well as a freighting business. He apparently was fairly influential in his day, and he was friends with Jacob Waltz of Lost Dutchman Mine fame. There also was a mention that Dr. Jones performed surgeries on his dining room table, which may have led to his nickname of Butcher. The recreation area opened in 1960. By late 962 after 150k visitors it closed two months for renovations due to being so busy.

Hike

This is a lakeside hike on the east side of Saguaro Lake and is an excellent hike to take out of town guests who think Arizona is all desert.

The trailhead is at the east end of the beach close to the road and parking area. The first 1/3 mile of the hike is sidewalk and pavement as it goes to a large boat launch area and gate at Peregrine Point. From here on it is actual trail along the lake winding around its arms until you cross over the peninsula which is a short up and down jaunt. There are many great photo opportunities and excellent lake views. There is even a place where, through a canyon to the south, the Flatiron is framed from the Superstitions.

We do this hike as an 'out-and-back', we turn around when we are half-tired. Sometimes we make it to Echo Beach, other times we make it all the way to a beach overlook with vies of the Eastern reaches of Saguaro Lake.

This is a wonderful trail that has trees, reeds, water, desert plants including Strawberry Cactus, and beautiful flowering trees. Your friends from other states will not believe we are in the center of the Arizona desert (even though the lake is man made by Stewart Dam).