



Branching Out

Friends of the Forest Sedona

Volume 2011, Issue 2

April 2011

From the President

Carol Wirkus

Member Welcome Event: Tuesday, April 12

Would you like to know more about your opportunities to participate in the myriad of activities the Friends undertake for the Forest Service? Would you like to get to know more of our wonderful Friends? Do you have questions about how our organization functions, for example, how and why we track volunteer hours?

If you have an interest in any of the above, please come to our **Member Welcome Event on April 12, at 9 a.m., in the conference room of the Visitor Contact Office**, located on Highway 179 just south of the Village of Oak Creek. We are holding this first-time event to help members who have joined in the last year or two to meet other Friends, and to learn about FOF activities in which they might have an interest.

All members are welcome to attend. Perhaps you've been active at the Visitor Center, but would like to learn more about assisting visitors at the cultural sites, or maybe you've quietly done your part on trail patrol, and would like to meet other FOF members.

We will have time to socialize, and then get a brief overview of the Friends organization and short introductions to our committee activities. Afterward, **Janet Walters** will lead a tour of the Visitor Center for those who are interested.

Come enjoy delicious home-made refreshments and learn more about our wonderful group that helps protect the National Forests we enjoy so much! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to **Noreen Lisowski** at 284-2813 or Noreen@npgcable.com. Friends of the Forest offers something for everyone.



Provide Your Red Rock Pass Input by April 15

District Ranger Heather Provencio would especially welcome input from members of the Friends of the Forest regarding revisions to the Red Rock Pass Program. Due to issues brought forth in the US District Court of Arizona, the Forest Service is considering six different Pass scenarios. To view the scenarios, visit the www.redrockcountry.org web site. Your comments are

needed by April 15.

I participated in the March 1 Working Group Meeting, and can assure you this is a hot-button topic for area residents, as well as for people who live outside this district. As the web site says, "The Red Rock Pass program helps protect, enhance, and maintain Sedona's awe-inspiring red rock landscape for the American public today and into the future." Whatever your perspective, your viewpoint is vital.

FOF Activities

Mike Haboush has agreed to serve as FOF Auditor this year. Thank you, Mike!

Vice President **Spence Gustav** has mounted a valuable new project for which volunteers are needed. He, **Jerry Walters**, and others are working with **Travis Bone and Peter Pilles** to **digitize old archeology prints and slides**, and then catalogue them. The end result will be preservation of these important images, and improved access for those who are interested. You'll find more information inside this newsletter. To volunteer, please contact Spence.

If you are using a Forest Service vehicle, coordinate getting and returning keys through the FS employee who oversees your committee. Be sure to make arrangements ahead of time if you're using a vehicle over a weekend. If you encounter a problem, Volunteer Coordinator **Angie Abel** has volunteered to help.

V-V Discovery Days was a wonderful event, as always. Many thanks to **Jerry Walters and Roy Julian**, who ensured the Friends had plenty of volunteers signed up to help. Thanks, also, to **Al Cornell** and his crew, who set up and took down the event tents. A good time was had by all!

Helen Campbell, Wranglers Committee Chair, recently sent me a list of all the Wrangler activities undertaken last year. It reminded me of a quote, "I'm so busy I don't know whether I found a rope or lost my horse!" The Wranglers have recently decided to not add new members, as the current group of 11 who are certified to ride the FS horses wants to be kept busy, and training new members is difficult.

At the next Board meeting we will revisit the **proposed SOP on appropriate volunteer interactions**. The purpose of this SOP, written by **Roy Julian** and **Spence Gustav**, is to identify appropriate interactions with the public, Forest Service personnel and other members of the Friends of the Forest, and to specify corrective measures that can be taken when needed.

Our Friends of the Forest Board meetings are really general membership meetings to which **all members are welcome**. While only Board members can vote, all members will find this a great opportunity to meet other members and to keep informed about our activities. We don't sit around a big table. We sit audience-style. Come join us! We have home-made refreshments and **Suzie Dunn** brings great merchandise with our FOF logo that you can buy.

Forest Service Projects & Activities

FS Engineering Tech **Krissy Brown** is seeking FOF assistance to make repairs to the building at the Oak Creek Vista. **Al Gilson** is assessing what will be entailed in repairing the roof and floor.

The Forest Service has been searching for a comprehensive river management plan for **Fossil Creek**. Under consideration is a possible shuttle service, which would limit the number of vehicles and people going into the area.

Volunteer Coordinator **Angie Abel** is setting up training opportunities for us. The first will be Friday, April 29, and will be geared to volunteers and employees who work with the public. Training will include how to communicate with people who are being difficult. More information will follow later.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week—You're the Best!

Our Member Welcome Social is being held during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which is April 10-16. This is an appropriate time to say a huge THANK YOU to each of our members. You are making a difference for those of us who have the amazing good fortune to live among the Red Rocks, and for the millions of visitors who pass through. Thank you!

Future Dates

April 12: Member Welcome Event

April 20: FOF Board meeting, Forest Service Administration Building – all members are encouraged to attend

April 29: Forest Service training opportunity

Other Board meeting dates for 2011: June 15, September 14, December 7 Carol

Members are always welcome at Board Meetings. It is a good way to get acquainted and learn what the Friends are doing. A bonus is the great refreshments that are provided.

For more information: Check out the Friends website at: www.friendsoftheforestedona.org

Also, please remember to change your address if you move or change from street address to Post Office Box so that your newsletter and other correspondence reach you.

Volunteerism, in recent years, has increased in popularity in our society for a variety of reasons. Perhaps a significant factor is the progressive aging of the population and the desire to keep one's self occupied. I tend to think a much more significant factor is the discovery by people who volunteer their time and effort for community related services, of the personal benefits of volunteering. As a member of both the Sedona Friends of the Forest and the Verde Search and Rescue Posse, I have directly experienced some of those benefits.

The Sedona Friends of the Forest (FOF) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization, with membership open to all who are dedicated to maintaining, protecting, and restoring the scenic beauty of our National Forest lands in the Sedona area for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. Member/volunteers of the group support the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino Forest in maintaining and patrolling local trails, interacting with the visiting public at the Forest Service Visitor Information Center and local Cultural Heritage sites and many other activities related to the forest

The Verde Search and Rescue Posse (VSAR) is a volunteer auxiliary unit of the Yavapai County Sheriff's Dept. volunteers in this group are typically available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to support the Sheriff's Dept. in the location and retrieval of persons lost or injured within and around Yavapai County. When required, VSAR volunteers make themselves available to assist Law Enforcement officers in evidence searches related to criminal activity in our region. In physical year 2010, VSAR volunteers were called out for 31 distinct missions on 40 days and were directly involved in missions that impacted the situations of at least 61 local residents or visitors from 9 different states lost or stranded on or near 22 different Red Rock Trails plus several areas outside the Red Rock District.

Both of these organizations provide community service that is a benefit to all who live in or visit the Sedona Red Rock Country. A major factor in the success of both of these groups is the overlap between them in membership, participation, training and experience. Verde SAR currently has at least 30 active members available for callouts. Of these, approximately 50% are also active members in the Friends of the Forest. Included are 4 past or current presidents, the vice president, treasurer and secretary of the FOF.

VSAR missions involving lost or injured hikers are typically located on or near Coconino Forest system trails within the Red Rock District. A high percentage of these missions take place after sunset, in the dark. These are the trails that FOF volunteers are directly involved with

during trail patrol and trail maintenance activities. Due to their interest in hiking, the forest and local sites, FOF volunteers are among the most knowledgeable people in the region regarding the location, access points and problem points along the forest system trails.

When a visitor gets lost or is injured in a Yavapai County Forest area, the Verde Search and Rescue volunteers are among the first contacted. Volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each volunteer undergoes initial basic and ongoing training related to outdoor survival, outdoor navigation with map and compass and electronic GPS equipment, basic first aid, tracking, communications and other related skills. Each callout volunteer carries with them supplies and equipment which at a minimum level include first aid supplies, survival supplies for themselves and the subjects they are responding to, communications and navigation equipment and safety and lighting support material. Pending the weather at the time and local conditions, additional warm clothing, water and lights for use by the subjects are also carried.

One of the very great benefits of helping visitors out on the trail is the gratitude expressed for what are usually very minor acts of assistance. FOF trail patrol volunteers commonly provide information to hikers on the trails. Frequently the suggestion is given to turn around and return to the trailhead due to distance, time, local conditions or obvious shortcomings in the apparent supplies or condition of the hikers encountered. A search and rescue callout avoided is a major success for the trail patrol teams. Following search and rescue missions, a review is carried out as to the cause and means of avoiding the situation again. Because of the overlap and cooperative association with the FOF, recommendations for additional signage, maintenance and documentation of issues of problem areas on trails are easy to pass on and have accomplished.

Visitors who do get lost or have other issues on our trails usually do so because they are unprepared. Hikers should always carry suitable clothing for the area for both day and night. They should wear suitable hiking shoes, carry enough water, map and compass and/or GPS and a light if they are caught out after sunset. With the advancement of technology, most areas of the Red Rock District do have cell phone coverage. If you have any doubt as to how to get back to the trailhead, or you have any issues regarding your safety you should not hesitate to call for help. When in doubt, call 911.

For information about Friends of the Forest membership and activities, visit www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org

For further information about the Yavapai County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Posse, please contact the Volunteer Services Coordinator at 255 E. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ

The annual V-Bar-V Days event held on March 12th and 13th was a once again a success. Many thanks to the numerous committee and non-committee members who volunteered not only during the event but also for the crucial setup and takedown activities.



Andy Beeler shares his knowledge with visitors.

The long awaited permit to erect scaffolding at V-Bar-V to study the “shadow stones” and “sliver stone” was granted and the study conducted the weekend of February 25th. The study was spear headed by **Ken Zoll** on behalf of the **Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC)** and conducted by **Dr. Todd Bostwick** (ASU) and **Paul Lindberg**. Their combined and overlapping fields of expertise include archaeology, archaeoastronomy, tool knapping, and geology. **Peter Pilles** (Coconino National Forest Archaeologist) and **Travis Bone** (Red Rock Ranger District Archaeologist) also visited the study site to hear their conclusions. The findings were unexpected and intriguing. Look for a combined report and presentation/symposium from VVAC in September!



Visitors watch science in action



Peter Pilles (kneeling) and Todd Bostick discuss the ‘shadow stones’ while Ken Zoll (rear) and Paul Lindberg (right) listen intently.

A new project has begun under the direction of the Cultural Resources Committee. This is a joint project with the Verde Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archaeology Society. The scope of the project is to digitize and catalog the historical/archaeological 35mm slides and prints for the Coconino National Forest. **Spence Gustav** is the passionate and energetic mastermind of this project. For more details see his “Call for volunteers” elsewhere in this newsletter.



Spence Gustav photographing 35mm slides

Photos on these two pages by Jerry Walters

Remember to turn in your comments regarding the Red Rock Pass Proposal by April 15th to: comments-southwestern-coconino-redrock@fs.fed.us. You can find out more at: www.redrockcountry.org



Vicky Garrard removing and replacing slides from their holders



Lynne Roberts scans slide pages to capture marginal notes

Join me in welcoming new docents **Jerry and Judy Curnow**. They are hardy folks as they endured a V-Bar-V orientation session on the coldest day that we have had in many years.

If you are interested in helping protect our cultural heritage sites and learning more about the Palatki, Honanki and V-Bar-V sites, consider joining the Cultural Resource and Protection Committee. Please call or e-mail (culturalresources @friends of the forestsedona.org) for more information. Jerry Walters 284-1339

Plan to join us for Fun, Friendship and Food at the Welcome Event being held on Tuesday, April 12 at 9 a.m. in the conference room at the Red Rock Ranger District Visitor Contact office.

Call for volunteers - Image copying project for the Forest Service Archeologists

The Friends of the Forest have taken on a major project in support of the Forest Service Archeologists. A very large volume of archeologically oriented photographic transparencies and prints have been stored in the Flagstaff Forest Service offices for many years. In most cases, the images are the only copies available documenting the history and archeology of the Coconino Forest and the area around it.

At the request of the Forest Service archeologists, the Friends of the Forest are directing and playing a major role in converting this imagery to digital format and transferring information related to each of the images into a photo-log database. To date, approximately 1/3 of the slides have been converted to digital format. The copying process continues on the remaining slides and copying of the collection of prints will commence in the near future. Once the nature and process of creating the photo-log database are finalized, we will commence with that phase of the project.

This project has already started with the very generous support of volunteers from both the Friends of the Forest and the Verde Valley Archeology Society. It is anticipated that this project will potentially require thousands of hours of volunteer time. Volunteers are needed to carry out a number of jobs during the progress of the project. Assistance is required in the following processes;

- 1 – remove, organize and return 35mm slides to file folders as they are being copied
- 2 – scan pages of file folders using a flatbed scanner and laptop computer
- 3 – edit copied imagery using Photoshop software
- 4 – organize copied and edited imagery via computer site sub-directories
- 5 – photograph or scan slides and prints
- 6 – transfer image information to the photo-log database (most likely via MS Excel software)

Most or all of the required equipment to do these processes is already available. The most important requirement to help in this project is patience and a willingness to help in a routine but very important project.

If you are interested in helping with this project please contact Spence Gustav at Spencehg@yahoo.com or Jerry Walters at Fofdocents@gmail.co

The Huntress by Susan Vitek

Each spring at V-V Discovery Days, hundreds of children and adults eagerly grab a spear to put in an atlatl (a device for throwing long darts) or a bow and arrow — and try to “kill” a hand-painted animal on a 4 x 8 foot cardboard target. But few stop to ask how that fabulous painting — that super duper realistically accurate painting — that scary huge beast painting — JUST WHO MAKES THAT YEAR AFTER YEAR?

The answer is **Ruth Cornell**. At her home in the Chapel area, one is surrounded by all kinds of wonderful works of art. Beginning in 2003 for an Archeological event at the Palatki Heritage Site, Ruth’s inner eye and magic fingers have painted the Woolly Mammoth, Grizzly Bear, Big Horn Sheep, Bison, Elk and my personal favorite — the thing nightmares are made of — the growling, snarling Saber Tooth Tiger!

Seeing the target up close, one is amazed at the detail Ruth puts into these acrylic paintings. The tiger, teeth exposed, waiting to pounce off a rock, has a tree with delicate leaves behind him. A quiet river winds through the mist with purple mountains in the background. Painted on a regular canvas, any museum would be proud to display these unique works of art.

So what kind of person spends two complete days doing details on cardboard that will have holes in it — perhaps one minute after someone steps up to “wound” it? **Only Ruth Cornell. Nothing leaves her artistic soul until it is perfect. She is just one of the gems of volunteers in FOF.**

After two days of being demolished, the animal target is used at various locations like Red Rock State Park. This year’s piece went to Coconino College. All previous paintings are kept in the garage of a man who uses them for atlatl and bow and arrow demonstrations.

Growing up in the former Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama, Ruth studied under well known artists Edgar Arriola Espino in Panama and Luis Penedo in Guatemala using oils as her medium.

Her first works were of the fauna and flora of Panama’s jungles, ocean waters and acrylic presentations of Meso-American designs found on pre-Colombian pottery. In 1990, Ruth dedicated her artistic efforts to capturing the facial expressions and vivid colors of the indigenous peoples of the highlands of Guatemala. As one stares into the eyes of the people in Ruth’s paintings, you see her love of those people reflected back at you. You want to

touch their colorful woven clothing, for surely this is a real person — not just a painting!

Moving to Sedona in 1994 with her husband **Al** and mother **Toni**, Ruth now works with both cold and hot glass. Her passion includes creating fused glass jewelry, kiln formed glass light panels, mosaic mirrors and painting on glass. Working with both glass and paint yields “one-of-a-kind” pieces of art.

Ruth is Diana, the Huntress, but she stalks her prey through the bristles in her brush.



Ruth Cornell’s fabulous Saber Toothed Tiger ready to be “attacked”

Photo by Mike Vitek

Visitor Information Services

Janet Walters and Noreen Lisowski

There are approximately 47 Frontliner shifts to fill every week at the Red Rock District Visitor Contact Office. Currently, six of those shifts are available “for adoption”. Most of the open shifts occur on Saturday morning, mid-day Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Special thanks to all of the substitute Frontliners who have helped out on busy weekends in February and March as the committee leaders attempt to fill open shifts. Weekend substitutes included **Pat Witteman, Norm LaDuke, Jim Wilson, Pat Murphy, Susan Vitek, Mike Vitek, Butch Greathouse and Sonya Landholm**. Several of these folks assisted on special event Saturdays; in return, they often became part of the event. (continued on page 7)

Photos by Janet Walters



Jim Wilson offers advice on best casual dining places to a turkey vulture during the "Birds of Prey" event



Norm LaDuke stays a respectable distance from a peregrine falcon. It appears that Norm measured the length of the falcon's tether and multiplied by a safety factor of 3 or 4 !

Your assistance is still needed and appreciated even if your schedule is so full that you can volunteer for VIS on a very infrequent basis. Just let the Forest Service employees know that you haven't volunteered for a while and they'll give you a quick update on any changes such as parking areas no longer covered by the Red Rock Pass Program.

Russell Dunn's very popular live snake presentation is scheduled for May 28 and May 29 (Memorial Day weekend) so consider participating as a Frontliner on either Saturday or Sunday. You are guaranteed to have fun! If you haven't yet trained as a Frontliner, contact Janet at 284-1339 or jwalters@esedona.net. Our snowbird Frontliners are beginning to head north so more shifts will be open "for adoption" starting in April and substitute Frontliners are always needed. Janet



Sonya Landholm meets Native American flute artist David Wolfs Robe during her substitute shift

MEMBERSHIP	SONYA LANDHOLM
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There has been much anticipation in regard to FOF Membership this month! As reported elsewhere in this issue of "Branching Out", we are looking forward to our first Welcome to New Members gathering on April 12th. We have developed quite a long guest list, as all who joined FOF in FY 2010 and so far in FY 2011 will be included. **And we certainly hope for a good attendance!**

Newest names to be added to the Welcome list: **Jim and Jan Starkey**, who are Cornville residents and members of the Wranglers. **Paul and "Ronnie" Ward**, who we were pleased to meet at our February Board meeting. **Beth King and Melanie Crady**, who live in Mesa, but hope to be able to participate in FOF activities during their frequent trips to Red Rock Country. **Judy and Dave Miller**, Cornville residents, who especially look forward to helping out with Forest Service projects in their part of the District. **Judy Curnow**, who has joined her husband, Jerry, an FOF member since 2007. These folks are winter residents, who return to Wisconsin for the summers. Other new members who we are pleased have joined us are **Eugene Egan, Sam Serrill, Mary Sutter, and Joseph Alexander**.

We hope to see you ALL at the New Member event on April 12. We promise you a SPECIAL welcome, along with important information, and great food!

Sonya Landholm, Membership Secretary

TRAIL PATROL

DARL RECTOR

JANET WALTERS & ROY JULIAN, CO-CHAIRS

The Trail Patrol group has been very active during the last two months, logging 842 hours in January and 684 in February. **Pat Sexton, John True and Butch Great-house** are our power walkers, turning in 50-70 hours per month. Pat is preparing for a marathon when he returns to his summer home in Yakima, WA. New Members, **Sam Serrill** and **Mary Sutter** have joined my hikes to get acquainted and learn procedures. We enjoyed nice days on Little Horse Trail to Chicken Point and on Tea Cup. It may seem like a lot of effort to count hikers, bikers, cars and so forth but this information is greatly appreciated by the Forest Service for use in getting grants and assistance for projects. Whether you hike a long ways or a little, your hours and information are quite valuable. A big "thank you" for helping on the trails.

If you want to be added to the Trail Patrol roster, please let me know at: 928 634 3942. Darl



Enjoying Tea Cup Trail: Mary Sutter, Sam Serrill, Ted Jones, Lois Johnson, Carol Wirkus and hiding, Mike Vitek and Frank Wirkus.

Branching Out Editors

Chuck Jenkins — Summer

Darl Ann Rector — Winter

We appreciate and thank all of you who contribute articles and pictures for the newsletter !!

Trail Maintenance and Construction (TMC)

Mike Haboush

I hope that the following gives some indication of what our volunteers do when working on Trail Maintenance and Construction (TM&C). I have cited a couple of dates from my running commentary file.

02/18/11

We met at the Jordan Park parking lot to access the Jim Thompson Trailhead. We proceeded to work the Jim Thompson Trail almost to the tank. **Laurent Deviche, USFS, and FOF volunteers Rick Zabor, Mark Munsell, Gene Rector, Mike Haboush, Dale Webber, Joe Landholm, and a new member, Rich Spinelli** worked, cleaning 270 feet of side trail drainage, 10 water bars, installing 2 rock tread ramps, 1 rock retaining wall, and the removal of 5 trees from the trail. FOF volunteers put in a total of 37.5 hours of work.

02/25/11

We met at the Broken Arrow Trailhead parking lot off Morgan Drive. We worked two sections at the beginning of the trail, rock armoring and enhancing the tread to accommodate all users, hikers, bikers and horseback riders, and placing some strategic gargoyles to guide users to the center of the trail. This entailed moving several rocks weighing over 100 pounds from a nearby wash to the trail site. Some of the volunteers worked on up the trail, revegetating and naturalizing about a mile of trail to narrow the trail a bit and to close off some social trails. A drain was enhanced near one of the rock work sites. USFS personnel included **Laurent Deviche, Justin Poehnelt, Brenna Kenney, and Paul Hart**. FOF volunteers included **Bob Wych, Joe Landholm, Rick Zabor, Mark Munsell, Kevin Harding, Rich Spinelli, Glen Buenning, Mike Haboush, Jim Manning, and Dale Webber**. FOF volunteers put in a total of 51.75 hours of work.

And, on an ending note, since the beginning of this fiscal year in September 2010, between TM&C and Patrol Hotshots volunteers, 186 trees have been removed from trails, 861 water bars have been enhanced, cleaned or installed, 31 large rock ramps or retaining walls installed, 21 rock steps installed or repaired, and 52 miles of brush cut back from trails or rocks removed from trails or trails were naturalized to narrow the tread.

My hat is off to all the hard physical labor provided by our volunteers. Mike

River Patrol

Mike Vitek

River Changes Turned Out to be Charmed!

March was a very interesting month due to massive scheduling changes for the River Patrol. The original schedule had River Ranger **Dexter Allen** and crew traveling to Globe for trips on the Salt River to renew their swift water rescue and wilderness first aid training. But the Salt was dry, so all trips were shifted back to the Verde River.

This meant lots of scrambling to get drivers lined up. The River Patrol members came through in an outstanding way to cover all trips. Some of the trips were going to start on Saturday so Dexter would be able to monitor kayakers going between Beasley Flats and Childs. Dexter was able to provide assistance to some of the boaters who were lacking in white water skills.

So it was very fortunate that the schedule was changed since the flow of the Verde River was much above average and without Dexter's help, some boaters might have been in serious trouble. Thanks to all for your cooperation.

Mike

Merchandise

Suzie Dunn

GET YOUR FOF GEAR AT NEXT BOARD MEETING

As you know, every member is invited to our quarterly board meetings. It's where you get the scoop and where you see the great looking FOF gear. Back by popular request are the **long sleeve light blue denim shirts**. In stock are both a ladies' and a men's style. Come by the display and check them out. You can also look at the variety of gear on our FOF website.

Many thanks to **Noreen Lisowski** for helping with the sales in February. **Are you a person who would like to help select and market FOF gear? There is a need to expand the committee of one!**

Please contact Suzie Dunn 284-4707.

If you happen to have some dining chairs or other furniture you would like to donate to the Forest Service for use in the Crescent Moon rental, please call Angela Abel at 928 203 7535 or email: aaabel@fs.fed.us Also, please keep Angela in mind for future donations.

TRAIL PATROL HOTSHOTS

GENE RECTOR AND KEVIN HARDING

With improved weather in February and March, the Hotshots really got to work. Vultee Arch Trail, Sterling Pass (both sides) and Loy Canyon got some concentrated work, spending several days on each. March found the crew on Bell Trail, Long Canyon and many days on David Miller, Secret, Bear Sign, Dry Creek and HS. In addition to working on drainage structures and brushing, tree removal has continued to be a constant thing following the wind and snow storms. During February and into late March, **141 trees were removed from the trails**. A frequent question about tree removal is "What do you do with what you cut out?". The answer is: we cut out a section wide enough to open the trail and leave whatever we remove off the trail.

"Thank You" to all the Trail Patrol members who turn in the locations of down trees so that we can get to them rapidly.

We have a couple of new members who have come out to help, **Joyce and Stephen Hill, Jim Manning, Paul Ward, Garry Neil** will be joining us again soon. Many thanks to them and all the faithful helpers: **Rick Baldauf, Mike Haboush, Kevin Harding, Bob Wych, Dan Aragaki, Al Gilson, John True and Darl Rector**.

Gene



New Member Stephen Hill from Indiana and Gene Rector work on the Bell Trail

Photo by Darl Rector

WRANGLERS

HELEN CAMPBELL & CRAIG STEVENS

Herding cats isn't easy but neither is lining horses up in a row. **Robert Garcia**, Range Staff, left the Red Rock District and we decided a photo of his Wranglers would be the perfect farewell gift. I enticed **Spence Gustav** to be the photographer because I know of the "magic" he can do with photos...and we were going to need a little magic. Ten Wranglers lined up their horses in back of the barn at Beaver Creek where, had it not been for Robert, we would not have a tack room, a place to store hay or stalls to feed the horses. A few days later the other three Wranglers were photographed and Spence "stitched" the two photos together. **Craig Stevens** is a master wood worker and made a gorgeous black walnut frame. Voila we had a gift worthy of presentation to Robert at a party given by the RRRD in Robert and his wife Barbara's honor. Robert and Barbara are now in Idaho.



Three new members who have been certified to ride with the Wranglers, **Karen Schudson**, **Jim** and **Janice Starkey**, attending our March meeting. **Amanda Roesch**, **Iric Burden** and **Will Hill**, all USFS also attended. Amanda has been detailed into the position of Range Staff.

The information sheet regarding what to do if a volunteer is injured while working is in all the FS trucks. I will also be distributing the information to every Wrangler to read and be familiar with and to carry with them when riding. If an injury should happen we are to make contact with one of our FS designees. This information has been made into a wallet-size card for each rider. Every Wrangler has completed the Emergency Contact Information. This is

on file with me, with the FS and is carried with each Wrangler when riding. We reviewed the process for a Tail-Gate Safety Meeting before driving a FS vehicle and/or before each ride.

Connie Koff will be chairing a sub-committee for the Wranglers. The purpose of the committee is to ride most trails on the Red Rock District to evaluate them for equestrian use as directed by **Paul Hart**, Recreation, USFS. The information will be used to develop a rating system. **Karin Keene** and I completed a survey of the Carroll Canyon trail which has recently been improved in many areas to make it safe for horses. We GPS'ed and photographed areas of concern, and I have made a report to Recreation.

Jeff Upshaw is arranging for our next training through the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office -- what do you do if you come across a dead body in the forest? This was a question Karin and I had after returning from Carroll Canyon. Also discussed will be the prevalence of marijuana gardens on the Coconino and what to do if you accidentally walk or ride into one. I welcome **hikers from Trail Patrol** or anyone else who is spending time in the forest to join us for this training. Our GPS training is April 5th and at a future training **Collis Lovely** will show us "How to read a topographical map." There's a lot more to it than meets the eye. Collis is a retired FS hydrologist.

As members of the Friends of the Forest we all work hard at what we do. Whether it's constructing extensive cabinetry in the fire barn, installing kiosks at trail heads, making long hikes into the wilderness or greeting thousands of people at the Visitor's Center. The hours can be long, but we all feel good at the end of the day for our contributions to the Red Rock District. Somehow even the hard, sweaty, dirty jobs can be fun. **Craig Stevens** reported on such a days work that he and **Linzy Brower** had recently. Following is Craig's report.

"Well...after all these years trying to be a real cowboy I just got back from participating in my first cattle drive. Lin and I were doing our grass clipping duties, returning home on Cornville Road and here was Tony, with the Apache Maid Ranch, about to move about 120 head across the highway. Lin and I stopped traffic and after they crossed Tony asked if we would like to help them move about 200 more tomorrow HELL YES.

So at 7:30 we met at the ranch, rode south across the highway, along with 6 other cowboys to look for 200 cows. Tony handed Lin a two way radio and said "you two guys go get those 10 cows down in that canyon, drive them to Black Tank and hold em till we catch up with

some more", then rode off. I looked at Lin and said.....how in the hell do ya hold em????

It all worked out great, we put on a show for the tourists when we crossed Cornville Road with 200 cows. One calf got loose and Tony roped it between cars, what a scene. I wish I was able to get a picture of it, but I had my hands full of reins and an excited horse, on pavement, trying to keep 200 pissed off cows from going through a gate on the other side.

What a blast, I'll never forget it."

And so it goes with the Wranglers Helen



Craig Stevens and Karen Schudson after Karen's Certification photos by Helen Campbell



Visitor Contact Office in the snow on February 27, 2011 photo by Darl Rector

More pictures from V-bar-V Days

Photos by Mike Vitek



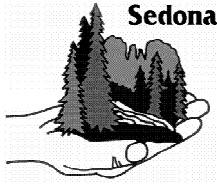
Sonya Landholm, Susan Vitek and helper, William Schultz, work at the Pinch Pot Table



Roy Julian talks to visitors about making things like sandals from native plants



Al Cornell entertains an attentive audience demonstrating how to make fire in primitive ways



Sedona

Friends of the Forest

**PO Box 2391
Sedona, AZ 86339-2391**

**Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 6**

Helping to protect

National Forest Land

**See Branching Out in color
www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday April 20 - 9:00 AM - Ranger Station

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome



Future Board of Director Meetings:

June 15, 2011

September 14

December 7

The Friends of the Forest, Inc. is dedicated to assisting the U. S. Forest Service in maintaining, protecting, and restoring the scenic beauty and natural and cultural resources of forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. The objective of this nonprofit, volunteer group is to work in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service in tasks it does not have the manpower or the funds to accomplish on its own.