



**Sedona**

December 2005

# Branching Out

Friends of the Forest

*Helping to protect  
National Forest Lands*

Volume 2005, Issue 5

## From the President

I wish everyone could have been at the Annual Meeting and the following Forest Service "Volunteer Thank You Picnic" at the Beaver Creek Ranger Station. On a simply gorgeous autumn day, Friends held their annual review of the year's activities, voted in new Directors, and awarded individuals for their efforts.

For those of you who were unable to attend, the following is an article written by our Vice President **Mike Ward** that describes the meeting and that made it into several publications in Sedona and the Verde Valley.

***Sedona's Friends of the Forest make a Difference in Sedona***  
**By Mike Ward**

On Saturday, October 22, 2005, Sedona's Friends of the Forest held their annual meeting prior to the Red Rock Ranger District Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the old Beaver Creek Ranger Station.

In keeping with the organization's mission to help fill the gap between the needs and resources of the Coconino National Forest within the Sedona area, **Bill Kusner** announced that in the past fiscal year, members of the Friends had volunteered 21,075 hours serving the Red Rock Ranger District.

In addition to hours volunteered for many smaller

projects requested by Forest Service staff, the Friends provided:



Bill Kusner Photo

- 3763 hours interpreting for visitors the V-bar-V and Palatki archeological sites,
- 6,641 hours patrolling Forest Service trails contacting visitors, picking up trash and doing minor maintenance,
- 1,181 hours building and maintaining Forest Service trails,
- 4,426 hours advising visitors to Sedona at the visitor centers,

*Continued on the next page.*

- 267 hours monitoring Sedona's peregrine falcon sites
- 273 hours restoring the orchards at West Fork
- 268 hours relieving Forest Service seasonal employees at fire towers
- 1,889 hours conducting the required quadrennial National Forest Visitor survey upon which local federal funding is based
- 310 hours sampling the water in Oak Creek for biological contaminates
- 85 hours controlling noxious weeds at V-bar-V and Palatki

In previous years, the Friend's had volunteered over 14,000 hours in 2003 and in 2004 members volunteered nearly 18,000 hours of service.

In his Treasurer's Report, Dean Campbell stated that for the past year, The Board of Directors of the Friends had voted to expend a total of \$14,995 for supplies and materials in support of 15 local National Forest projects requested by staff members of the Red Rock Ranger District.

In the election of the Friend's Board of Directors, ten serving Directors were reelected and four new Directors were elected to fill the seats of retiring members of the Board. Reelected were **Ruth Cornell, Suzie Dunn, Dick Eibeck, Norm Herkenham, Justine Kusner, Sonnya Landholm, Rubin Martinez, Vilma Martinez, Barbara Saul, and John Sturgis**. Newly elected to the Board were **Roy Julian, Susan Vitek, Carol Wirkus, and Rick Zabor**.

In the presentation of special awards, **Justine Kusner** received the Vice President's award for her continued exceptional service and **Helen Campbell** received the President's award for her tireless work traveling the country at the request of the Forest Service explaining how other National Forest Districts can implement volunteerism as demonstrated in Sedona to help with the accomplishment of their local missions. Named as the New Member Volunteer of the Year was **Ken Zoll** who revamped the Friend's web site and developed the V-bar-V Visitors Guidebook. **Mike and**

**Susan Vitek** shared the Volunteer of the Year award for their work in a large number of diverse activities supporting the Forest Service, and **Bill Kusner** was honored with the Distinguished Volunteer Award for his many years of notable service to the Friends.

Before the meeting was adjourned, **Red Rock District Ranger, Ken Anderson** expressed his personal gratitude and that of his entire staff for all of the efforts gladly given by the members of the Friends of the Forest in helping to maintain the beautiful environment around Sedona and in enhancing the forest experience for Sedona's visitors and residents alike.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the **Friends** or for more information about the **Friends of the Forest**, you are invited to visit our website at <http://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org>

## Orchard Committee

- *Mike Ward*

Once again it is time to trim and prune in the West Fork Orchards. The frost killed most of the bloom this past spring so it was slim pickings for apples this year.

We will be meeting at the west Fork Orchards around 10 AM until around 2 PM on Mondays or Wednesdays from December through April as schedules permit. If you would like to join us for mostly light duty work helping to restore the health of the apple trees in this historic orchard, please let me know. Call me at 282-2958.



## Trails

- Joe Landholm & Rick Zabor

Since the last newsletter the trail crew paid two visits to **Courthouse Butte & Big Park Loops**. This was the completion of **Susan Amon's** Trail Boss project. We worked on two different sections placing check dams, cleaning out and constructing drainages to rectify a problem area. Susan directed us to make sure that the fixes were appropriate for the trail of multi users (hiker, biker, equestrian). Hot temperatures slowed down the work but not the enthusiasm. Now that her project is finished it can be evaluated by **Terry Adams**. Great insight on Susan's part!!

**Airport** saddle saw us return to make sense out of the spider web network of trails. In the past we revegetated social trails and placed cairns with posts located in the middle of them. Signs were attached to these posts to help the users identify a trail, and the junctions. This can only help people to stay on the trail & preserve the fragile vegetation.

We returned to **Bruce Brockett** an equestrian trail & worked at the trailhead. We added H braces to support the upcoming fence that will protect an island of vegetation.

A historical trail was visited twice where we brushed & cleaned out drainages. The trail was built in the 1880's by **Bear Howard** to move cattle up to the Rim. The C.C.C. crew led by **A. B. Young** rebuilt the trail in the 1930's & the trail is named after him.

A trail that has great views of **Cathedral Rock** & winds down to Oak Creek is **Templeton**. During the floods a portion of the trail was heavily eroded. A number of groups including ourselves moved rocks & restored the bench (where the rubber meets the dirt).

A new trail that has plant labels & is designed for wheel chair access is called **Centennial**. We worked on it four times, where we moved rock & dirt to maintain and protect the trail. This work will make it more resistant to erosion and naturalize the look.

We went out to **Munds Wagon** where lightning & rain dampened our brushing of the trail. A number of

people have worked on many of the above projects. They are **Kevin Harding, Susan Amon, Bob Tener, Kimberly Picard, Gene Rector, Mike Vitek, Al Gilson, Joe Landholm & myself**.



The Forest Service volunteer picnic in October was a great combination of people & food. This year **Al Gilson** was chosen **Trail Volunteer of the Year** for his dedication. Fence building, hard work, timely suggestions on problem solving, and his background of construction skills are paying off. **Congratulations Al !!!!**

We work on projects led by a Forest Service Ranger every Friday morning 8am-12 noon, why not join us in preserving the National Forest.

Rick Zabor

Joe Landholm [www.snjland@wmconnect.com](mailto:www.snjland@wmconnect.com)  
284-1299

Rick Zabor [www.julierickpz@peoplepc.com](mailto:www.julierickpz@peoplepc.com) 284-4762



## Patrol

- Joe Landholm

2005 is coming to an end quickly and I take this opportunity to thank some 75 Friends who engaged in Trail Patrols during the year. In short, approximately 25% of the Friends of the Forest membership participated in patrols during 2005 – Splendid!

A special thanks again to **Kevin Harding**, our "Rookie of the Year", for his outstanding efforts during his first year as a Friend. Kevin logged more than 300 hours. Also, congratulations and thanks go to several Friends who have devoted enormous amounts of time and energy to patrols year after year, including 2005: **Mary Bowden, Peter Baenziger, Frank Heinze, Lee Hendrickson, and Gene Rector** – Congratulations ladies and gentlemen!

**Genny Riner** recently completed a study of the trails in our part of the Coconino National Forest, and parts of the highlights of her work will be of interest. There are 100 official trails in the Greater Sedona Area, totaling some 250 miles. More than 60 miles are considered new, having been added this decade. So there you have it! More than 100 trails through beautiful Red Rock Country, and laid end to end they would stretch from Sedona to Phoenix and back! Enjoy our trails.

In the following, Rick Zabor discusses a distinguished group that has provided a vital service to the Friends, and the Forest Service for several years, and announces their new home.

## Patrol & Hotshots

- Rick Zabor

There are some for whom hiking a trail isn't enough, so with Forest Service approval they fix problems as they hike. These folks are experienced trail technicians who remove trees, brush, clean out drainages, & general repair of trails. They now have a name its **Patrol Hotshots** and like the name implies they fix the trail while on patrol. This is the difference from the Trail Committee that works on specific projects on Friday mornings.

**Sandy & Jim Beckett** went out on patrol during the summer battling rattlesnakes, and 100+ degrees to fix what needs fixing. They worked on **Bandit Ridge, Sunset Connector, Long & Fay Canyons**, covering 15 miles and 60 hours of trail work. I'm sweating just thinking about it.

When Gene Rector returns from his summer home in Oregon, the call is out to work the trails. His following are **Darl Rector, Al Cornell, Buck Packard, Kevin Harding, Bob Tener, John True, and Rick Zabor**. The trails worked on since early October were, **Bear Sign, David Miller, Secret Canyon & Vultee Arch. Secret Canyon** has a section that recently had a fire. There are a number of dead standing trees that tend to "lay down on the job" when a strong gust of wind blows. Over 21 trees were removed off this part of the trail including one that measured 24" in diameter. **Sterling Canyon** has been worked on partially on either side of the saddle & will require another visit to complete it. Brushing & drainage repair has taken a high priority this year due to the rainfall which has put the growth into overdrive.

The work performed can only be appreciated by taking a hike on one or all of these trails.

## Membership

- Al Cornell

The annual membership renewal notices will be mailed out during the first week of December. This will allow members to renew their memberships during this 2005 tax year if they so wish. Remember, your membership dues are tax deductible. Any membership questions? Call Al Cornell at (928) 204-2976.



# River Rats

- Mike Vitek

**Verde River Ranger Dexter Allen** came to our September meeting hoping we would vote to form a new committee of drivers to help him in keeping the river and its banks clean and pristine. After his presentation, sixteen hands flew up to volunteer--and Dexter smiled.

His trips on inflatable kayaks can take 3 to 10 days. To drive gear and supplies in, and to take the refuse he finds out, Dexter had to take 1 to 3 forest service employees off their regular patrols, depending on the length of the trip.

Since the Forest Service is short of people who patrol, and we have lots of people who drive, it's a perfect match. Many of the drives consist of pulling a trailer but some do not. All volunteers must take the Defensive Driving class at the Ranger Station on Brewer Road.

Just six weeks after the committee was formed, **Helen (Wheels) Campbell** and **Frank Wirkus** were the first "River Rats" to drive representatives from the Coconino, Tonto and Prescott National Forests in to Childs. Four days later, **Helen** and **Mike Vitek** picked up the tired but invigorated group at Horseshoe Lake northeast of Phoenix. The forest service workers from their respective recreation departments were on a River Retreat to discuss the implementation of the Wild and Scenic Plan designated by Con-

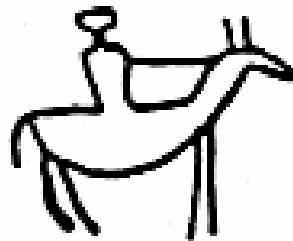
gress to protect the "remarkable, outstanding values of the river."

The Verde River is the only river in Arizona to get the coveted "Wild and Scenic" designation. Dexter works with members of the Tonto and Prescott Forests in a joint effort to provide the manpower needed to make the river live up to that



name. Dexter's face fills with pride when he says that after he cleans up an area, "You won't know anyone was ever there." Ah, wilderness!

If you are interested in joining, call **Mike Vitek** at 282-1076.



# Annual Meeting Awards



*Bill Kusner receives the Distinguished Volunteer Award*

Darl Rector Photo



*Susan Vitek accepts the Volunteers of the Year for 2005 - Co winner Mike Vitek was camera shy*



*Helen Campbell receives the President Award for 2005.*

Bill Kusner Photos



*Justine Kusner accepts the VP Award from Vice President Mike Ward*



*Christa Roughan presents Special recognition to Rusty Swavely, Susan Vitek, Helen Campbell, Suzie Dunn, Dennis Parker and Buck Packard for their work on the NVUM Survey Team. Not pictured are Barbara Saul and Mike Vitek*



*Ken Zoll was awarded the New Volunteer of the Year Award*



*Al Gilson & Mike Vitek were recognized by the Prescott NF for helping to man the Mingo Fire Tower.*

*Rick Zabor & Chuck Jenkins were recognized by the Coconino NF for helping with the Apache Maid Fire Tower.*



Bill Kusner Photos

## Are You Prepared to Live?

- *Al Cornell*

Unfortunately, many individuals who hike into the forests today think that “survival” starts when they are confronted with a situation which might become life threatening. This type of thinking is what gets many hikers into trouble. “Survival” must become a state of mind. Therefore, a “survival” mentality should start the minute you decide to take that day hike, and your initial “survival” actions should be to dress according to the demands of the environment and to insure you have, at the very least, the minimum survival items necessary to survive the night in the forest, such as fire (matches and a butane lighter), a tarp for shelter, knife, cord or rope, flashlight, signal mirror, whistle, a First-Aid kit and plenty of water. In addition to these precautions, you must check the forecasted weather, and you must let someone know what you are doing and when you expect to return so that the search and rescue personnel know where to look for you if you have encountered an emergency.

Nation-wide statistics show that the most dangerous forest recreational event, excluding water related activities, is the “day hike,” probably because those are the people least prepared to spend a night lost in the woods. Excluding water activities, hypothermia accounts for about 80% of deaths in the woods and most hypothermia deaths occur between 40 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

My experiences as a search and rescue volunteer for the past 11 years in the Verde Valley have demonstrated to me a commonality of characteristics among lost persons. They include hiking with inadequate time to accomplish what they had set out to do, being improperly dressed, and not having even the very basics for a night’s survival such as fire and a flashlight.

In the event you find yourself in a threatening situation in the woods, you must fight to survive like there is no tomorrow. If you don’t, for you there may be no tomorrow. Having the proper survival items and clothing are an absolute must if you are to win this fight.

Now is the time for all of you to review your daypacks and “winterize” them -- prepare them so that you can survive a cold night in the woods if necessary.

Any questions concerning survival gear, etc., please don’t hesitate to call Al Cornell at

(928) 204-2976.

## Visitor Information Services

- *Barb Zeschke & Vilma Martinez*

We’ve all been celebrating the glorious fall weather and our annual picnic capped it off. **Bill Stafford’s** crew was outstanding as always – we appreciate their cooking skills so much. The annual elections and awards moved along nicely. VIS South Gateway volunteers logged 4425.75 hours -WOW! Our annual volunteers of the year for VIS were **Carl Cooper** and **Dave Murray**. Congratulations to you both. It’s always difficult to choose these annual winners who excel at the the reception desk and a bit more. Hearty thanks you’s to all of our great volunteers – both regulars and subs. Everyone is a valuable piece of this monthly “cross word puzzle” and I appreciate the cheerful positive attitudes of each and every “FOFer” in addition to the rangers and the NHA employees and volunteers. A special award was given to **Barbara Bloch** who helped **Emma Peschke** immensely as a volunteer. I think we all made our mark!

We welcome several new members this year: **Norma Wallace, Ann Meiggs, Sue Clemenz and Renate Calhoun** (in order of appearance) and lost **Nancy Ryder** who moved to Florida.

VIS is always looking for additional volunteers – either as a Sunday afternoon regular or as a substitute. There is a full day training scheduled; check with me for details. (284-2021) or with Sara (284-5085). January training will be on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and February and March on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sara has a couple of spaces available on her popular van tour – call her if you are available on the December 7. Another van tour will be scheduled in February – call Sara for details. Bring a sack lunch, water, camera if desires and good walking shoes are a must.

Have a great holiday and please feel free to call at any time at 284-2021.

## Cultural Resources

- Dean Campbell

Our docents who are summer travelers are back and have quickly picked up the pace of volunteering.

Congratulations to new members **Ken Zoll, Larry and Shermane Frei** for all the time they served as docents during this last year. They each had over 200 hours of volunteer time. Each received a certificate expressing the appreciation of the Cultural Resources Committee Chairs for their outstanding efforts. **Ann and Jim Meiggs, Fred and Joy Shinn, and Renate Calhoun** have completed their training at the V - V and Palatki sites and will soon become active on the Cultural Resources Committee. This brings the number of active Friends docents to 37.

Chris and Bob Carpenter are now site hosts at the V - V site, so they have assumed the greatest part of the work schedule there. However, if any docent of the Friends would like to volunteer time at the V - V site, they would be welcome and greatly appreciated.

New members **Stan Sutherland and Dave Lufkin**, who completed their training in October have already been active as docents at Palatki. Both have indicated how much they are enjoying serving at Palatki. They also expressed the satisfaction of being able to help the visitors leave the site with an appreciation of what the site represents and an appreciation for archaeological sites in general. Most of the visitors have never visited an archaeological site and leave most impressed with our world-class Heritage Site. We recently hosted a group of 15 visitors from Spain, who were immensely pleased with their experience at Palatki.

If you have an interest in helping the Forest Service protect, preserve and interpret our Heritage Sites at Palatki and V - V, please contact:

Dean Campbell [redrockdean@earthlink.net](mailto:redrockdean@earthlink.net)

284-0527

Craig Johnson [shortshrinksj@yahoo.com](mailto:shortshrinksj@yahoo.com)

204-2262

## Merchandising

- Suzie Dunn

Yogi Berra, onetime catcher for the New York Yankees, is reported to have said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it!" The Friends have reached a fork in the road with the Merchandizing Committee. Outgoing Committee Chair **Judy Cooper** wrote that most members have had the opportunity to purchase our usual Friends of the Forest merchandize and that the time has arrived to come up with new items of merchandize or to put the committee on hold for awhile.

**Suzie Dunn** has offered some new ideas but needs help to implement them. It would also be great to get some other new ideas. Please consider volunteering for the Merchandizing Committee and put your great ideas into operation. The Merchandizing Committee provides FOF logo clothing items for sale to members for identifying ourselves as proud members of the Friends and for generating additional funding for Forest Service projects. Please let me know of your interest in helping out.

## Publicity Committee

- Mike Ward

Both the Verde Independent and the Red Rock News published the article appearing in this issue of our newsletter about our annual meeting. We also publish a column in the Village News published monthly, which is received by all Village of Oak Creek Residents. We will continue our efforts in raising the public's awareness about the activities of the Friends of the Forest.

On Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Mike Ward, Helen Campbell and Ken Anderson** provided information about the Friends of the Forest as an agenda item at the Sedona City Council. Ken and Helen addressed the value added impact that the activities of our organization has had on Sedona, its residents, businesses and visitors, the National Forest locally and now increasingly our influence as a model of volunteerism for the National Forests nationally.



**Sedona** Friends of the Forest

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**Wednesday, December 14 - 9:00 AM - KSB Building**  
**FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting**  
**All Members are welcome**



Future Board of Director Meetings:

February 15, 2006

April 19, 2006

June 14, 2006

December 13, 2006

*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.*