

October 2009
Friends of the Forest Celebrates Another Year of Service

On a beautiful fall day members of the Sedona Friends of the Forest gathered at the Beaver Creek Ranger Station to elect new Directors for the coming year, recognize achievements of the past year, and honor volunteers.

During the past year, the Friends donated a record 25,655 hours, assisting the Ranger District in a wide variety of projects. This was 2,500 hours more than last year and, according to District Ranger Heather Provencio, the equivalent of thirteen full-time employees.

President Roy Julian noted that the Friends organization continues to grow, with more than 400 members and over 20 committees and activities supporting the Red Rock Ranger District. New volunteer activities added during the past year include ride-along support of the Fossil Creek Rangers, monthly retrieval of all the trailhead registers, and graffiti removal.

Each year about one-third of the Friends' Board of Directors is elected to serve a three-year term. The following eleven members were nominated and elected to serve for the next three years: Dean Campbell, Helen Campbell, George Coombes, Jeff Dunn, Suzie Dunn, Bill Kusner, Alice Musgrove, Bob Tener, Mike Vitek, Mike Ward and Ken Zoll.

Julian thanked all members for generously donating their time to assist the Forest Service. He then recognized the recipients of the Friends' Service Awards by presenting each of them with a red rock plaque:

- President's Award-Visitor Information Services Committee.
- Vice-President's Award-Spence Gustav
- Vice-President's Award-Pat Sexton
- Volunteers of the Year-Larry & Shermane Frei
- New Volunteer of the Year-Glen Buenning
- Distinguished Volunteer-Rick Zabor
- Special Recognition Award-Mike Ward
- Special Project Award-Al Gilson

Julian recognized the recipients of the Committee Awards by presenting each with a certificate:

- Cultural Arts-Buck Packard
- Fire Tower Lookout-Mickey Gershtenson
- Fossil Creek Committee-Butch Greathouse & Mickey Gershtenson
- Patrol Hotshot-Dan Aragaki, Ron Rusk, Rick Baldauf
- River Ranger and Support-Frank Wirkus
- Trail Maintenance and Construction-Glen Buenning

- Trail Patrol-Georgia Munsell
- Visitor Information-Mickey Gershtenson, Larry Frei, John Moore, Butch Greathouse
- Water Sampling-Evelyn & Bill Rowland
- Wranglers-Milt Moore
- Certificate of Thanks for Graffiti Removal-Bob Shuman

District Ranger Provencio applauded the Friends, "You are the heart of the Forest Service. Without you we couldn't meet the needs of the Forest Service visitors. You add real value to this community."

By Carol Wirkus, Publicity Chair and FOF Vice-President