



# Branching Out

## Friends of the Forest Sedona

Volume 2011, Issue 5

December 2011

### **From the President**

**Carol Wirkus**

#### **State of the Friends**

We continue to have over 400 members, and to offer our volunteers more than 20 different types of activities in support of the Forest Service. This past year we surpassed all records with 192 active members contributing **27,212 volunteer hours**. We are in excellent financial shape with \$18,379 encumbered for current projects, and **\$72,382 available for new projects and operating expenses**. With our amazing volunteers and full treasury we are well positioned to assist the Red Rock Ranger District in 2012.

#### **FS Appreciation Picnic**

All those who attended our October Annual Meeting and the FS Appreciation Picnic enjoyed the beautiful outdoor Beaver Creek setting, a delicious Dutch oven meal served by Forest Service employees, and many words of appreciation. District Ranger **Heather Provencio** thanked us for working so hard and said that FOF volunteers added the equivalent of 14 employees to her current staff. Heather praised FOF volunteers for putting a great face on the Forest Service.

#### **Board of Directors Election**

Each year approximately 1/3 of the Board of Directors are elected to serve a three-year term. This year **Justine Kusner, Sonya Landholm and Rick Zabor** are rotating off the Board after many years of service. Justine is a Past-President who is well known for her weed patrol activities; Sonya is a Past-Secretary who most recently served as Membership Chair; and Rick was a great Trail Maintenance Chair. Many thanks to the three of them for their valued service! At our Annual Meeting the following members were elected to serve on the Board: **Eloise Baldauf, Ruth Cornell, Roy Julian, Noreen Lisowski,**

**Susan Vitek, Janet Walters, Jim Wilson, Carol Wirkus, Bob Wych and Jennifer Young.** Thanks to each of them for their willingness to serve on our Board of Directors! Thanks also to the Director's Nominating Committee: **Rick Baldauf, Spence Gustav, Mike Haboush, Janet Walters, and me.**

#### **Recognition Awards**

So many Friends are deserving of special recognition. Our Awards Committee-- **Helen Campbell, Al Cornell, Spence Gustav, and me**--had the tough job of deciding which members to recognize.

**New Volunteer of the Year** –This year two individuals were so extraordinary we had to recognize both. Our first award went to **Larry Juskiewicz**, who gave more than 850 hours of dedicated assistance at Visitor Information Services. Larry is absolutely expert at providing information to visitors in a friendly and effective manner. Our second New Volunteer Award went to a new member who has given 715 hours to a variety of activities. **Jim Wilson** was recognized for his enthusiastic service helping people at the Visitor Contact Office, V-Bar-V Heritage Site, and on local trails. These two exceptional volunteers racked up almost 6% of our 2011 volunteer hours!



**Carol Wirkus presents award to Jim Wilson**

**Volunteer of the Year** – This award was presented to **Mike Haboush**, for exemplifying the volunteer spirit through his leadership of the Trail Maintenance and Construction Committee and generous support of other Friends activities, including data collection, Fossil Creek, publicity, and trailhead assistance over holiday weekends. During the past year Mike gave 664 hours. Mike works quietly and diligently, providing leadership by example.



**Mike Haboush is Volunteer of the Year**

over many years, including editing the “Branching Out” newsletter and working with the Hot Shot trail crew. This year Darl accepted chairmanship of the Trail Patrol Committee, which she re-energized by adding an advisory committee, creating two co-chair positions, and offering introductory hikes. As a result of her good work, the number of Trail Patrol hours grew 19%, from 5,500 in 2010 to 6,537 hours this year.



**Darl Rector receives The President’s award**

**Heart of the Friends Award** – This award was given to **Mike Vitek** for demonstrating the “Heart” of the Friends through his longstanding and wide-ranging contributions over the past nine years, with a “get-it-done” attitude and affable enthusiasm. Mike prefers to work behind the scenes, but with that great laugh of his you can hardly miss him. Mike gave 415 hours across 12 categories of activities, heading up River Ranger Support and contributing to such activities as construction projects, Fossil Creek Patrols, Trail Register pickup, and water sampling.



**Mike Vitek receives the Heart of the Friends award**

**The Distinguished Volunteer Award** – This year’s recipients are **Joe and Sonya Landholm** for their many years of dedicated service in a variety of activities, including Sonya’s innovative leadership of Membership activities, and Joe’s awesome trail work. Joe and Sonya have contributed in numerous ways since becoming Life Members in 2004. Sonya is now retiring from the Board of Directors. For the past three years, she actively served as Membership Chair, a job to which she brought her own personal brand of outreach and friendship. Mighty Joe has impressed everyone with his work ethic, trail-building skills, and good-natured attitude.



**Distinguished Volunteers, Sonya and Joe Landholm**

**The President’s Award** – This award was given to **Darl Rector** in recognition of her outstanding contributions



**President Carol Wirkus with *Special Project* awardees, Spence Gustav and Jerry Walters**

**Special Projects Award**

Awhile back Spence Gustav told me there were some historic archaeological photos of Palatki that are kept in Flagstaff. Spence said he'd like to make digital copies of the photos so they would be available to anyone who might like to see them. Spence characterized this as a small task that he could handle by himself. As you all know, the "small task" grew into a monumental undertaking.

The Special Projects Award was given to **Spence Gustav** for his amazing leadership of the digitizing aspect of the Photo Digitization Project, toward which Spence contributed 850 hours and copied thousands of historic archaeological slides and photos. Spence contributed 1570 hours this year, which is undoubtedly an all-time record, and represents almost 6% of the total Friends of the Forest volunteer hours.

A second Special Projects Award was given to **Jerry Walters** for exceptional co-leadership of the Photo Digitization Project for which Jerry is creating a database to capture information about each of the photos and slides. So far, Jerry has worked 345 hours on this project, with considerably more work to do. Just for the record, he contributed a total of 507 hours, with most of these as chair of the Cultural Resource Committee.

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Editor's Note: Please see Committee Awards on the next two pages. Annual meeting photos by Mike Vitek and Darl Rector

**Did you earn a Red Rock Pass or Interagency Pass?**

If you volunteered 16 hours this year, you are eligible for a Red Rock Pass. And if you volunteered 500 hours, you earned an Interagency Pass. These are nontransferable passes. Of course, one of the benefits of being over age 62 is that many of us already have a \$10 lifetime Senior Pass, which also functions as a Red Rock Pass.

Good News—we have streamlined the process of getting Passes. If you earned and would like to receive a Red Rock Pass or an Interagency Pass, see Volunteer Coordinator **Angie Abel** at the Administration Building. She'll know you have earned the Pass because **Bill Kusner** is sending Angie our volunteer hour reports. If Angie is not available you can see **Rochelle Hall**, who will also have the hour reports.

The Passes can now be issued as you earn them. So, if you are a new volunteer you will not have to wait till the end of the year to get your Red Rock Pass.

**Counter Chop Project**

From day one, volunteers and employees who help visitors at the Visitor Contact Office have complained about how the 2-level counter forces people to lean over in a manner that strains necks and backs. The Forest Service asked if we could reconfigure the desk to improve comfort and safety. Our FOF construction foreman extraordinaire **Al Gilson** accepted the project. Congratulations to Al and his team of **Kevin Harding, Mark Munsell, Mike Vitek, Mike Ward, and Frank Wirkus** for reconfiguring the counter.



**Frank Wirkus and Al Gilson working on cabinets in the Visitor Contact Office. Most of this work is being done in the evening after the office is closed.**  
Photo by Mike Vitek

**Committee Awards**

**Cultural Resources**—Chair Jerry Walters awarded certificates to Jacob Zahler, Jim Wilson, Jan Lisowski and Spence Gustav.

**Fire Tower Lookout**—Chair Mickey Gershtenson to Chuck Jenkins (not pictured)

**Fossil Creek Cleanup**—Chair Jan Lisowski to Rick & Eloise Baldauf and Suzie Dunn

**Hot Shots**—Chair Gene Rector to Jim Manning (not pictured)

**Orchard**—Chair Jennifer Young to Mike Ward

**River Ranger Support**—Chair Mike Vitek to Frank Wirkus

**Trail Maintenance and Construction**—Chair Mike Haboush to Rick Zabor, Joe Landholm and Bob Wych

**Trail Patrol**—Chair Darl Rector to Gene Rector, Butch Greathouse, John True, Pat Sexton, Mike Haboush, John Moore, Jack & Ruie Luescher and Debbie Wych

**Visitor Information Services**—Chair Janet Walters to Larry Juskiwicz, Jim Wilson, Butch Greathouse, Norm LaDuke, Justine Kusner

**Water Sampling**—Chair Al Cornell to Mike Vitek and Frank Wirkus

**Wranglers**—Chair Helen Campbell to Karen Schudson (not pictured)



Mike Haboush, chair of Trail Maintenance and Construction, gives awards to Joe Landholm and Bob Wych



Mike Ward receives the Orchard certificate from Jennifer Young



Fossil Creek Cleanup chair Jan Lisowski gives awards to Eloise Baldauf, Rick Baldauf and Suzie Dunn



Trail Patrol Chair, Darl Rector, gave awards to Mike Haboush, Gene Rector, Debbie Wych, Jack and Ruie Luescher. Recipients not pictured: John Moore, John True and Butch Greathouse

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. Check out the Friends Website at [www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org](http://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org). If you have a change of address, be sure to post it on the website. Thanks.



**Cultural Resources—Chair Jerry Walters awarded certificates to Jacob Zahler (upper left), Jim Wilson (upper right), Jan Lisowski (lower left) and Spence Gustav (lower right)**



**VIS Chair Janet Walters awards certificates to Justine Kusner, Norm LaDuke and Jim Wilson (middle left)**

**Not pictured: Larry Juskiewicz and Butch Great-house.**

**Water Sampling Chair Al Cornell awards certificates to Frank Wirkus and Mike Vitek (left)**

**River Ranger Support chair Mike Vitek gives award to Frank Wirkus (above)**



**Presidents Message Continued:**

**With Appreciation**

Many thanks to each of you for your contributions to the Friends of the Forest and the Red Rock Ranger District. Well done, Friends!

**Dates to Remember:**

November 28: Trailer Towing Class

December 7: FOF Board and General Meeting

2012 Board Meeting Dates: Feb. 15, April 18, June 20, Sept. 19, Dec. 12

April 17, 2012: Forest Service Defensive Driving Class

April 18, 2012: Trailer Towing Class

Carol Wirkus

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SONYA LANDHOLM**

Eight new Friends have joined us since the September Newsletter Report, and all agreed to a short introductory interview for this column.

**Michael and Jean Ober** have been Cottonwood residents since July (neighbors of the Rectors, actually!), having moved to Arizona from Illinois. While hiking they saw someone wearing an FOF badge. This tweaked their interest, they looked at our website, and immediately decided this was an organization they would enjoy being part of. And they wasted no time getting involved! They are currently working VIS, Trail Maintenance, and Trail Patrol. Sounds like they have found their niche in the Verde Valley.

**Kris Van Gorkom**, a native of Washington state, is currently a caretaker at Palatki. Her plans are to leave around Thanksgiving and return in the Spring of 2012. What a contribution our site hosts make!

**Deirdre Peterson** is a part-time resident, who lives the rest of the year in N.Y. City. Deirdre expresses interest in several FOF committees, especially the Wranglers. We look forward to Deirdre's involvement while she's in Sedona!

**Ginette Haas** has rejoined us after a brief lapse in membership. She has taken VIS training and has already begun to volunteer at the Visitor's Center, where her services are enthusiastically welcomed!

Arizonans **John and Debby Losse** moved to Sedona from Phoenix in September, 2010. Both hikers, they have been active in the Westerners, and this interest is what drew them to the Friends. John intends to join both Trail Maintenance and Trail Patrol. We look forward to getting better acquainted with the Losse's!

Even though our newest member, **Sam Mirza**, lives in Mesa and has a second home in Prescott, he joined Sedona's Friends of the Forest. Sam plans to work with the Trail Maintenance crew every-other Friday, when he has a day off from his job in Finance for a manufacturing company. Sam even drove up for the Annual Meeting and Forest Service Appreciation picnic three days after becoming a member. We like that kind of enthusiasm!

To all of our new members, a very sincere and hearty welcome to Sedona Friends of the Forest!

**NOTICE TO ALL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LIFE MEMBERS:**

Membership renewal notices were sent out on November 1. 2012 dues are due on January 1. You are urged to send in payment as soon as possible, saving your new **Membership Secretary, Eloise Baldauf**, the task and expense of mailing out a large number of reminders. Eloise will be taking over Membership responsibilities after the December 7 Board meeting. It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past three years. I thank you all for your help, cooperation, and especially for your friendship.

Addendum: **Marilyn "Toddy" Long** just joined before press time. Sonya Landholm 928-284-1299

**Merchandise**

**Suzie Dunn**

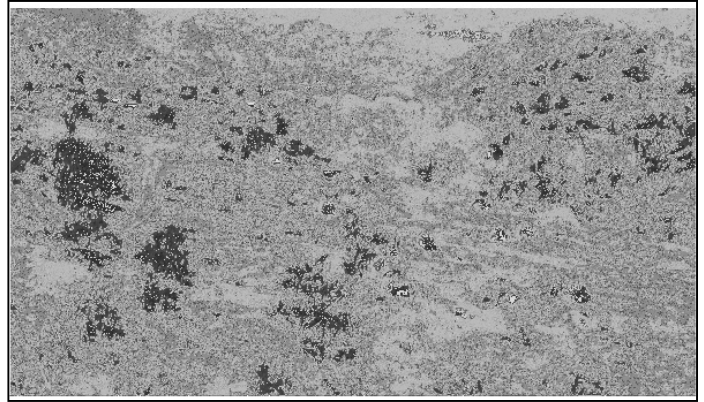
**FOF GEAR FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Look for gift items at our December meeting. We have some "sun block" shirts, beanies, ¾ sleeve women's shirts, denim and cotton shirts plus Tote Bags that make great gift bags! Each tote will come **with a bonus of a dozen homemade holiday cookies!** In addition, there will be a few catalog pages where you can see and select items such as fleece and rain repellent jackets. Wear your gear on the trail or at the VCC! Look sharp!

Contact Suzie Dunn for more information at 284 4707

### Photo Digitization Project

The project to digitize and catalog the historical/archaeological 35mm slides and prints for the Coconino National Forest is well underway in Phase 3 of the project. The initial thrust is to process all of the slides. Our small group has processed 54% (7,325) of the slides. Phase 3 entails transcribing the hand written comments, from the margins of the slides and back of the prints, into a "photolog" database (MS Excel). This phase is by far the largest in terms of hours required for completion. To date, we are less than 10% complete for the total project. The skills required to be a member of this team include a general comfort with using a Windows based PC, entering data into a spreadsheet, using an image (i.e. photo) viewer, and attention to detail. Training and group work sessions will be provided.



**Wickiups along Fossil Creek ca.1907**

Many many thanks to all committee members who have volunteered at the cultural sites over the past year. Your service is greatly appreciated and goes a long way towards protecting the sites as well as enhancing the experience of our many thousands of visitors. The number of active committee members has declined over the past several years while the number of visitors has steadily increased. To everyone's great dismay, we had an incidence of vandalism/graffiti at Honanki this past July. This incident occurred in the middle of the day! 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 email ([culturalresources@friendsoftheforestsedona.org](mailto:culturalresources@friendsoftheforestsedona.org)) for more information. Jerry Walters 284-1339

### **Health Benefits of Volunteering by Susan Vitek**

The December 2011 Issue of Consumer Reports has an article on the health benefits from volunteering. Older adults apparently live longer and rate themselves at higher levels of health than those who don't volunteer. It goes to say that you don't have to be in excellent health to get these benefits. In a Baltimore study, older adults who volunteered at least 15 hours per week and rated themselves in just fair health at the start of the study, were the most likely to improve their stair-climbing speed over the next eight months compared to a control group who didn't volunteer. All volunteers studied had improved cognitive functions, greater happiness in life and not as much depression. Those who worked on environmental projects were only half as likely to have the symptoms of depression 20 years later. The experts think that volunteering and the sense of purpose it provides supported volunteer retention better than other programs like exercise groups. The article concludes with making sure that the group one volunteers for is a good match and is satisfying to one's particular talents, skills and interests.



**Forest Sign ca. 1910**

If you are interested in helping with this project, or would like more information, please contact Jerry Walters at [Fofdocents@gmail.com](mailto:Fofdocents@gmail.com).

The Red Rock Ranger District was without a permanent Range Conservationist since **Robert Garcia** departed for Idaho in February. **Iric Burden**, Range Technician kept the Wranglers fairly busy March, April, May and June with invasive weed species. July and August were just too hot to ride so that was a good time to renew our Government Driver's Licenses and our permits to haul horses. Five Wranglers took the hauling part of the test for the first time. Whether someone wants to haul or not, and this is perfectly understandable, having the license to drive a green-rig and haul a FS trailer is a big safety factor for all of us. Just like a husband and wife who have a private plane. The wife may not want to fly, but it would be a good thing if she knew how to land!

September brought the Red Rock's new Range Staff **Marc Stavropolous**. He was busier than a one armed paper-hanger until the end of September when Craig and I were able to meet with this energetic and forward-thinking gentleman. I asked him if he would write something for our newsletter. He agreed, shyly noting, "I'm not accustomed to talking about myself." In his words, let me introduce **Marc Stavropolous**

*"My wife Lori and I have six horses, four cats, two dogs, and four children. Two children are grown and on their own, one is in high school and one about to enter high school. I grew up in cattle country in the Sandhills of Western Nebraska. I graduated from college in 1982. I am an outdoorsman and have been hunting and fishing all my life. Horses and back country packing/hunting are my passion. I have been packing for 30 years-- from the Selway Wilderness in Idaho, the Bob Marshall & Scape Goat Wildernesses in Montana, to the High Uinta Wilderness in Utah. I spent three years as a hunting guide in Idaho, started my Range Management Career with the USFS in Montana then moved to the BLM in Utah. I was the Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist with the BLM before moving to my current position in Sedona.*

*"The Wrangler volunteer group has provided the USFS a tremendous service. I will try to expand their role by providing more experiences of Range Management and try to capture the group's passion for working with the USFS. The stock program is part of the fabric of the USFS and I will do my best to keep it active and up with the times."*

In past years the Wranglers haven't done a lot of riding between Thanksgiving and the first of the year, but come

2012 we will be champing at the bit to start projects with Marc and Wildlife Biologist, **Janie Agyagos**. Also, soon after the first of the year we will be having our annual certification for Wranglers and the Forest Service. I have recently corresponded with four people interested in the Wranglers and perhaps taking the ground and mounted certifications.

Friends of the Forest's annual meeting and awards was held October 29<sup>th</sup> and as has become customary, the day was sunny, bright and warm. This year the Wrangler of the Year was awarded to **Karen Schudson**. Karen became interested in the Wranglers in November of 2010 and soon afterward took and passed her certification to be a Wrangler. Karen rides the FS horses, actively participates and took the initiative to become eligible to drive a FS rig and to haul horses. Karen helps care for the FS stock and she *volunteered* to take over the scheduling of feeders while I was gone for the summer. I don't know if her intention was to continue when I returned but she has! Congratulations, Karen, on your award.

Speaking of volunteering **Diane Greathouse** *volunteered* to take on the task of keeping track of the Wrangler hours. Keeping the hours for the Wranglers is more than just the number of hours we work. We keep data regarding how the hours were spent; in the saddle, what the project was, training, feeding or in a Wrangler meeting. Diane is a whiz with the computer so my simplistic way of recording this information has been transformed into an actual electronic form. Helen



**Marc Stavropolous packing at Fish Lake, northwest of Vernal, Utah**

## Visitor Information Services

Noreen Lisowski

With the busy Fall season underway, three newly-trained volunteers are already busy manning the Frontliner and Admin desks. **Mike and Jean Ober** and **Jack Luescher** jumped right in to their Frontliner duties almost immediately after their September training sessions. New volunteer **Maureen Rodgers** who started at the Admin desk, loves volunteering so much she has decided to take on the Frontliner desk as well! In October experienced frontliners **Bob Cook** and **Ginette Haas** returned to volunteer and we're grateful to have them back.

Our snowbirds are also flocking back to Sedona. **Mark Munsell** and **Kevin Harding** have once again teamed up for busy Saturday afternoons, while substitutes **Lois Johnson**, **Pat Witteman** and **Rosemary and Jim Johnson** have stepped in to fill the many open shifts that are still available. If you'd like to join our happy family of volunteers, the next training class is scheduled for December 7. Contact me at **284-2813** or email [vis.volunteers@groupmail.com](mailto:vis.volunteers@groupmail.com).

Finally, a note of thanks to Janet Walters, who made it so easy for me to take over her duties as VIS Committee Chair. Janet did an awesome job of creating computer programs that helped streamline the process of documenting volunteer availability, scheduling and keeping track of hours. Kudos, Janet, for a job well done! Noreen

Addendum: New member Marilyn "Toddy" Long is joining the VIS group.



**Janet Walters,**

**former VIS Committee Chair Extraordinaire**

Photo by Mike Vitek



**Volunteer Jack Luescher shares trail information with a visitor. Jack and his wife, Ruie, have hiked over 100 trails since arriving in Sedona**

Photo by Noreen Lisowski

## River Patrol

Mike Vitek

The last season of the River Patrol Committee ended with River Rangers **Dexter Allen** and **Mike Roseman**, with the help of FOF members, supporting the annual Verde River Canoe Challenge. Our goal was to keep the participants safe and to remove trash from the Verde River between White Bridge and Beasley Flats. The picture shows some of the trash that was recovered.

This season started with a trip in October from Beasley Flats to Childs. **Frank Wirkus**, **Glen Buenning** and **Mike Vitek** helped with the put in. This trip was to remove invasive plants, primarily salt cedar. The water flow was still low which makes for difficult boating. On the fourth day, the Forest Service river crew was met at Childs by **Helen Campbell**, **Rick Baldauf**, and **Gene Rector**. This was Gene's first trip to Childs.

November will have the crew doing two trips putting in at Beasley Flats and taken out at Childs. These trips will also concentrate on removing evasive plant species from the river banks. Members will also remove as much trash as their boats will carry. Mike

(Please see picture on following page)



David Vitek towing trash on the Verde River

## Trail Maintenance and Construction (TMC)

**Mike Haboush**

During the months since the last newsletter, the Trail Maintenance and Construction Crew has brought the following trails up-to-snuff: Wilson Canyon, Jordan/Jim Thompson Connector, Jim Thompson, Schnebly Hill, Telephone, White Mesa and Brewer. We are now working the Carroll Canyon Trial area.

My hat is off to all of our crew that worked through the late summer heat: **Rick Zabor, Joe Landholm, Bob Wych, Glen Buenning, Al Gilson, Dale Webber, Ron Rusk, Sam Serrill**, and to our new members, **Jean and Mike Ober**.

Friends of mine, who live in the Jordan Park area of Sedona, and frequently walk the Jordan-Jim Thompson Connector and Jim Thompson Trails got word to me that they really appreciate the work that FOF TM&C has done on these trails. They feel there has been a vast improvement of these trails.

Again, my thanks to all who work to improve our local trails, and who welcome the many users of these trails while we work. We look forward to all our members who are returning from their summer retreat to work in the cooler, but not too cold, Northern Arizona weather.

Mike

**Branching Out Editors, Chuck Jenkins and Darl Ann Rector thank you all of you who turn in great articles and pictures for Branching Out.**



**Work on Jordan/Jim Thompson Connector Trail. Above: Carrying a 400+ pound rock— Rick Zabor, Sam Serrill, Bob Wych, Laurent Deviche, Mike Haboush and Mike Ober. Below: Adjusting rock armor.**  
Photos by Jean Ober



## Volunteer Hours Report from Bill Kusner

Great news—we set another record year with **27,212** hours, 1200 hours more than last year. Figuring a 40 hour week and 3 weeks vacation, that is about 14 rangers. A few highlights: Trail Patrol set a new record of 6537, River Rangers just a few hours short of last year, The New Photo Project had 1570, Cultural Resources did about half of their record year but there are more site hosts on duty. Some individual hours: **Spence Gustav 1570; Larry Juskiwicz 853; Butch Greathouse 770, Gene Rector 723; Jim Wilson 715; Mike Haboush 644; Mike Ward 643; Jeff Upshaw 626; Jan Lisowski 541; Carol Wirkus 528; Rick Baldauf 515; Jerry Walters 507;** Five Members over 400; Nine members over 300 and Fourteen Members over 200 hours. Pretty impressive.

**TRAIL PATROL HOTSHOTS**  
**GENE RECTOR AND KEVIN HARDING**

**TRAIL PATROL**                      **DARL RECTOR**  
**JANET WALTERS & ROY JULIAN, CO-CHAIRS**

The Hotshot trail maintenance resumed on October 15th, when my wife, Darl and I returned from spending the summer in Oregon. Helping to work on the David Miller loop which includes Secret Canyon, Bear Sign and part of Dry Creek, were **Kevin Harding, Garry Neil, Mike Haboush, Rick Baldauf and Darl Rector**. We wanted to have the trail done before the annual meeting on October 29th so that we could take **Barbara Miller** (David Miller's Mother) hiking there. A special thanks for **Mike** and **Rick** who finished the trail on the 27th.

As you have been reading earlier in the newsletter, the Trail Patrol Committee outdid themselves with hours on the trail this year. There were 82 members of Trail Patrol who turned in hours. That is an average of 80 hours per person. Whether you did 100's of hours or only a few we appreciate that you are on the trails helping others and enjoying yourselves. It is a little work to turn in the information and we are happy that so many of you have taken time to do it. If you are hiking and not turning in your hours, please contact me and I'll try to make it as easy as possible for you. (634 3942)

Since then, we have finished maintenance on the Long Canyon Trail and started on Vultee Arch Trail. Others who worked are: **Dan Aragaki** and **James Grier**. Thanks to all the crew for their long, hard days which includes 45 minutes each way on Road 152. Gene

I am making an effort to have about a 2 to 3 hour hike each week where you can get acquainted with other members and learn about trails and how to keep track of information. Roy Julian led a very interesting hike recently and described the plants and shrubs and how they were utilized by the ancient Indians. Can you imagine surviving here with nothing but what nature provides? I plan to take advantage of Al Cornell's offer to do some specialized training classes on hiking safety this winter.

**Take note of the offer to get a Red Rock Pass as described in the President's report on Page 3.**

"Let's Hike"                      Darl



**Jim Grier and Kevin Harding working on Long Canyon Trail. They lived close in Massachusetts but met in Sedona !**

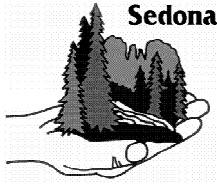


**Karen Schudson holds a sandal sample as Roy Julian talks about uses of the agave plant. Observing, left to right: Rita Harding, Claire Julian, Kevin Harding and Gene Rector**



**Jeff Upshaw takes good care of the Wrangler horses**

**Remember to renew your membership and get your Red Rock Pass**



**Sedona**

**Friends of the Forest**

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Sedona, AZ 86339-2391**

**Non-Profit Org.  
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## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**Wednesday December 7 - 9:00 AM - Ranger Station**

**FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting**

**All Members are welcome**



**Future Board of Director Meetings:**

**February 15, 2012**

**April 18, 2012**

**June 20, 2012**

*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.*