



Branching Out

Friends of the Forest Sedona

Volume 2010, Issue 5

December 2010

From the President

Roy Julian

We had a great time at the annual membership meeting and Forest Service Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on October 23rd, and overate as usual with the delicious lunch prepared by the Forest Service staff and our own **Bob Tener**. Following are some of the highlights of our annual meeting.

State of the Friends

Friends continues to grow with over 400 members, including 67 new members in this year alone. The Friends offer over 20 different committees and activities to choose from in support of the Red Rock Ranger District. We are continuing with the Fossil Creek Ranger support, which has proven to be a very successful program, and have had several large-scale special projects, including the warehouse storage construction project and the NVUM survey. **Bill**

Kusner, our Database Manager, reported that the Friends donated over **26,000 hours** in volunteer work to the Forest Service, another record for our organization, and **Dean Campbell**, our Treasurer, reported that the Friends' finances are in excellent condition with significant funds available for future Forest Service projects.

Board of Director Elections

Each year, approximately 1/3 of the Board of Directors is elected to serve a three-year term.

Barb Zeschke, **Louisa Connell**, and **David Fausch** rotate off the Board of Directors after many years of valu-

able service. I would like to thank them for their contributions to the Friends as members of our Board of Directors.

Four new Directors were elected by the membership of the Friends to serve for the next three years: **Rick Baldauf**, **Spence Gustav**, **Mike Haboush** and **Craig Stevens**. In addition, the following existing Directors were re-elected to continue serving for the next three years:

Al Cornell, **Al Gilson**, **Kevin Harding**, **Chuck Jenkins**, **Joe Landholm**, **Jan Lisowski**, **Buck Packard**, **Darl Rector** and **Gene Rector**.

I would like to thank **Sonya Landholm**, **Rick Zabor**, and **Ken Zoll** for assisting Carol and me on the Directors Nominating Committee

Recognition Awards

I would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee, **Noreen Lisowski**, **Mike Ward** and **Carol Wirkus**, for their as-

sistance in selecting this year's recipients.

President's Award: This is an award of special recognition presented to a member, couple, or committee who has made an outstanding contribution to the Friends' volunteer work. The awards committee this year decided to recognize two individuals for the President's Award, **Buck Packard** and **Chuck Jenkins**.

Buck is one of the **original founding members of the Friends**, who continues to work hard for the Friends and the Red Rock Ranger District in a wide variety of



Buck Packard Receives the President's Award

activities, including VIS, V-V Days, Trail Register Pickup, Trail Patrol, River Rangers, Fossil Creek, data collection and Cultural Resources, with **over 400** hours of total volunteer service.

Chuck has not only served as a **past President** of the Friends, but has also served as the “go-to guy” in many critical assignments which he fulfills with quiet competence and energy. This year Chuck headed up the NVUM Survey team and has continued to serve in a wide range of additional activities, including Cultural Resources, Executive Committee, Fire Tower Lookout chair, Fossil Creek, River Rangers and co-editor of the newsletter.



Chuck Jenkins receives President's Award

Heart of the Friends Award: In previous years we awarded the “Vice President's Award.” This year we re-named the award the “Heart of the Friends Award,” to reflect the real intention of recognizing a member who demonstrates the “heart” of the Friends - someone who is passionate about the Friends and freely gives their time to make a difference. The first person to be awarded the “Heart of the Friends” Award was **Jan Lisowski**.

Jan has helped out in many ways over the years, such as chairing the Fossil Creek Cleanup effort, docenting at Palatki, working the front desk at the Forest Service administration building, and also serving as Assistant Treasurer. He contributed **477 hours** of volunteer work during the past year, and did so with a great deal of heart, which exemplifies what this award is all about. (pictured below)



Volunteer of the Year: This award is given to the member who has, over the past year, given generously of their time, through a variety of activities and exemplifies the volunteer spirit. The Volunteer of the Year award this year went to **Rick Baldauf**.

Rick has hauled equipment numerous times for the River Rangers, worked hard on trail maintenance, hiked many miles doing trail patrols, and helped obtain water samples from Oak Creek. Rick gave **467 hours** to the Friends during the last year. He is also a great guy that everyone enjoys being around, which is a good thing because he is active with so many different committees!



Volunteer of the Year is Rick Baldauf

New Volunteer of the Year: This award is given to the volunteer who is new to the Friends, suggesting perhaps a membership of one to one and one half years. This person has jumped in with both feet and hit the ground running and has given many hours volunteering in a variety of activities. This year's New Volunteer of the Year award went to **Jeff Upshaw and Craig Stevens**.

As a new member of the Friends, **Jeff** has been an invaluable addition to the Wrangler Committee, with his amazing knowledge of horses and their care. Jeff has donated over **350 hours** to the Friends thus far this year.



New Volunteer of the Year, Jeff Upshaw

Craig has jumped in with both feet as a new member of the Friends, with **350 hours** in just six months, becoming the **Co-chair of the Wrangler Committee**, attending a week-long Rocky Mountain Regional Pack String School, and helping to ensure the success of the Bucksprings allotment project.

It is particularly fitting that we recognized two members of the Wrangler Committee this year, because the committee's hours more than doubled from the previous year, to over 2100 hours.



New Volunteer of the Year, Craig Stevens

Distinguished Volunteer: This award is given to the member who has over many years consistently given of their time to the Friends of the Forest in a variety of activities. This year's Distinguished Volunteer award went to **Gene Rector**, who for the past 15 years has been going out as many as five and sometimes six days a week working on maintaining and constructing trails in our District, with his Hotshot crew. Gene amassed **762 hours** during this past year, which I believe is the most for any individual in our organization. This is even more remarkable when you consider that those hours were achieved while only being here six months out of the year.



Distinguished Volunteer, Gene Rector



Suzie Dunn and Janet Walters receive the Special Recognition Award

Special Recognition Award: This year we honored **Suzie Dunn and Janet Walters** with Special Recognition Awards for their continued service throughout the year conducting the detailed **NVUM Surveys** in a wide variety of far-flung locations.

Special Project Award: This year we recognized **Mark Munsell and Kevin Harding** for the work they headed up on the warehouse fire storage project.

Kevin coordinated the efforts of a dozen other volunteers and saw the entire project to completion in a compressed timeframe of about two months, with over **400 total project hours**.

Mark contributed his design and engineering expertise, and also generously allowed the use of his woodworking workshop for the construction of the storage shelves. Mark personally put in over **150 hours** on the warehouse fire storage project alone.



**Kevin Harding Accepts the Special Projects Award
Mark Munsell was not in attendance**

Annual meeting photos by Mike Vitek and Darl Rector



Jacob Zahler receives Cultural Resources Award from Jerry Walters

Committee Awards



Chuck Jenkins gives Fire Tower Award to Al Cornell



River Ranger award to Rick Baldauf by Mike Vitek



Mike Haboush receives Hotshot Award from Gene Rector (above)



Jeff Upshaw receives Wrangler award from Helen Campbell



Janet Walters gives VIS award to Justine Kusner

RIVER PATROL**MIKE VITEK**

It was a busy year for the River Patrol Committee, but since people keep volunteering, they must enjoy what they are doing! **Dexter Allen**, Red Rock River Ranger, was able to complete many of his trips thanks to River Patrol volunteers driving his crews—sometimes in bad weather with very poor road conditions. However, we don't let such things stop us. Yet.

All runs were completed on time and safely. **Rick Baldauf** was always available to make a run and contributed 137.5 hours last year. Wow! Just to keep in practice for driving on our muddy and rough roads, the clever Rick bought a Jeep.

River Patrol hours increased from 481.5 in 2009 to 670.75 in 2010. Some of the increase was due to the patrolling done this summer in Fossil Creek. This entails having volunteers accompany a Forest Service employee who gives information to visitors regarding camping, camp fires and restrictions in place in Fossil Creek. Having a second person, a volunteer, allowed a much greater presence in this area. You all did a great job.

The fall season has started with just two trips, both from Beasley Flats to Childs. Dexter is planning on more trips in December. Many of these will "put ins" at Childs and "take outs" at Horseshoe Lake. **If you are interested in joining this committee**—you must have a Government driver's license and a trailer endorsement. These are provided by the Forest Service.

Call Mike Vitek, 282-1076 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP**SONYA LANDHOLM**

For those of you who missed the Annual Meeting on October 23, the 2010 Membership Report was presented as follows: As of 9/30/2010:

Life Family 112; Life Friend 52; Family 170;

Friends 71; **Total 407**

Joined in 2010 67; Net Gain 14

Growth Rate For Year 3.4 %

It is a pleasure to welcome several new members since the last report: **Catherine "Cat" Anderson, Robert and Audrey Erb, Phyllis and Cy Elliott**. Inadvertently omitted from a previous newsletter (My apologies!) were new members **Johanna Haas, Claire Lewis and Mr. Lewis**. A hearty Friends of the Forest **welcome to you all!** (Cont on next page.)



Janet Walters awards certificates to Mickey Gershtenson (top) and Jim Wilson (bottom)

Committee Awards

Cultural Resources –**Jacob Zahler**
 Fire Tower Lookout –**Al Cornell & Rick Zabor**
 Hotshots –**Mike Haboush**
 River Ranger Support –**Rick Baldauf**
 Trail Maintenance & Construction –**Glen Buenning & Rick Zabor**
 Trail Patrol – **Gene Rector**
 VIS –**Justine Kusner, Rick Richter, Larry Juskiwicz, Jim Wilson & Mickey Gershtenson**
 Water Sampling – **Bill & Evelyn Rowland**
 Wranglers – **Jeff Upshaw**

Well done, Friends!

In closing

As this is the last newsletter article that I will be writing as your President, I would like to take this opportunity to give you all my heartfelt thanks for the cooperation and without exception, when I've called someone in the Friends for help with a project or committee assignment, you have responded enthusiastically. I have really enjoyed representing you as your President and working closely with such an exceptionally nice bunch of people. Roy

AN IMPORTANT HEADS-UP!!!!

2011 renewal dues are due January 1. Notices have been sent out to non-Lifetime members, and if you joined after July 1, 2010, you are paid up through 2011 and will also not be receiving a dues notice. Everyone else please remit your dues as soon as possible and save us the expense of having to send you a reminder. If you should have received a notice but did not, please give me a call.

Thanks, Friends! You're the greatest!

Sonya Landholm, Membership Secretary

928-284-1299

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■ **A note from our ultimate records keeper, Bill Kusner:**
■ Please be sure to keep your addresses (mailing and e-mail) and phone numbers up to date either with Sonya Landholm, Bill Kusner or by changing it on the website:
■ www.friendsoftheforestedona.org.
■ Bill also reports the final hours contributed for this year are 26,025 and 15,762 miles
.....

Please join me in welcoming **Michael Dally** as our latest docent! Many thanks to **Dean Campbell** for conducting the Palatki training.

The Palatki cliff dwelling remains closed. A CREC crew will be utilized to remove selected trees to enhance the view of the site from the Vista Trail. Archaeological clearance is needed before a new trail can be constructed higher up the canyon. The new trail will offer much better views of the site.

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@friendsoftheforestedona.org) for more information.

Jerry Walters 284-1339

PUBLICITY CAROL WIRKUS

One of the wonders of our 'Friends' organization is the number of skilled people who are willing and able to contribute to our varied activities. Publicity is no exception. This year seven different members wrote articles about the Friends of the Forest for the "Serving Sedona" column in the Red Rock News. Three of us wrote two articles, and "storyteller extraordinaire" **Susan Vitek** wrote three. Since the September FOF newsletter, the following stories have appeared:

In September **Mike Ward** updated the public about the exhibits that will be funded by the \$400,000 All American Scenic Byway grant the FS and FOF were awarded. "The planned exhibits include a visitor trip planning exhibit to explore and discover the Sedona area, anchored by the interactive 3D terrain model. Also in the plan are geology, biodiversity and human history interpretive exhibits to help visitors understand and appreciate this special place. A multi-media theater will provide visual programs highlighting the area's local wonders." **Wow! An interactive 3D terrain model and a multi-media theater!**

In October **Helen Campbell** wrote about how the Wranglers are identifying fence repairs needed in the Bucksprings allotment area. "Wranglers **Craig Stevens, Steve and Ginny Rench, Marlee Vanderbeck, Jeff Upshaw, Milt Moore, Mike Ward** and I rode many miles of fenceline to provide the decisively significant information on the condition of the fenceline to Garcia for this year's work with the Elk Society. He was given a GPS reading, photo of the fence damage, and a narrative of what equipment will be needed to do the repairs. Armed with this

CULTURAL RESOURCES JERRY WALTERS



"Dean Campbell (L) points out various styles of 'rock art' to new docent Michael Dally (R - foreground) and RRRD Visitor Information Specialist Bruce Carlson (C - background)".

Photo by Jerry Walters

information, Garcia can efficiently plan the work for each year."

In November I told the story of our October 23 Annual Meeting, at which we celebrated our 16th year of service to the Red Rock Ranger District, elected new directors for the coming year, and honored volunteers. As **Heather Provencio**, District Ranger, said, "Have you ever been busy! Thank you for your time, energy and passion. You are our boots on the ground and a constant presence out there for the Forest Service."

Look for our December story to appear in the Red Rock News on Wednesday, December 1. **Susan Vitek** will inform the public about Zoonotic diseases--infectious diseases that can be transmitted from non-human animals, both wild and domestic, to humans. Susan will do this through a humorous tale about vacationing in a 40-year-old cabin that has not been occupied for awhile. The story is based on a safety presentation given by **Janie Agaygos**. As Susan writes, "We all know of E. coli and Salmonella, but what about Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis, Tularemia and Leptospirosis? We can't "see" over 30 Zoonotic diseases, *but we can learn how and why to avoid them.*"

These and our previous newspaper columns can be found at our FOF web site. **Click on "Member News"** and then scroll down to the list of press releases. Happy reading!
Carol

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION (TMC)

MIKE HABOUSH

Following is a sampling of some of the work that the TMC crew accomplishes during each Friday morning of work on the trails. Keep in mind that crew members carry in and carry out the tools of the trade, a few being, cross-cut logging saws, picks, shovels, McLeods, loppers, and rock bars. In addition, everyone carries plenty of water and snacks, as needed.

In late July, **Eddy Eckley** (USFS), **Rick Zabor**, **Bob Wych**, **Dale Webber**, **Barbara Wolak** (new FOF member), **Mike Vitek** and I met at the parking lot of Grasshopper Point. We started up Oak Creek on the **Allens Bend Trail** for about ten minutes. We then crossed the creek on make-shift log bridges, and proceeded on up the creek another ten minutes to a site along side the creek where there was a pool. At this site there was a make-shift limb and log structure for people using a rope tied in a tree to

jump off and swing across the creek to a rock face. From the rock face they could climb up to the top of the rock and jump off into the pool. There was also a rock fire pit ring and various trash in the area. We dismantled the jump-off structure, cut the rope, dismantled the fire pit ring, buried the coals, cleaned up the trash and camouflaged the fire area. We then proceeded back hauling the trash out. Along the Allens Bend Trail we cut four tree limbs and removed one tree from the trail. We did all of this in 3.5 hours.



Left to Right: Barbara Wolak, Eddy Eckley (USFS), Mike Vitek, Bob Wych, Dale Webber, and Rick Zabor. Photo by Mike Haboush

About mid-September, **Rick Zabor**, **Al Gilson**, **Joe Landholm**, **Bob Wych**, **Mike Vitek**, **Dale Webber** and **myself** for FOF, and **Paul Hart**, **Alisha** (USFS Intern) and **Katelyn** (USFS Intern), met at the Midgely Bridge parking lot and proceeded to work on the **Huckaby Trail**. We camouflaged about 70 ft. of social trails, created or cleaned 12 drainages (rolling dips), created a rock dam, armored a slope along the trail, and cut a plug through a tree that was down on the trail. This took about 4.5 hours.

In two successive Fridays in October we worked the **North Wilson Trail**. **Rick Zabor**, **Bob Wych**, **Joe Landholm**, **Dan Aragaki**, **Gene Rector** and **myself** met at Encinosa Picnic Area parking lot and proceeded to North Wilson Trail. We trimmed about 1.1 miles of brush from trail, installed one drain, enhanced or cleaned 11 drains, and removed 11 trees from trail, either sawed or hoisted. This took about 5 hours. The following Friday, **Rick Zabor**, **Bob Wych**, **Joe Landholm**, **Kevin Harding**, **Garry Neil**, **Gene Rector** and **myself** met, again, at Encinosa Picnic Area parking lot and proceeded to (cont)

North Wilson Trail. We trimmed about 0.75 miles of brush from trail, installed two drains, enhanced or cleaned 24 drains, repaired two steps and removed 5 trees from trail. Again, another 5 hours of work was accomplished.



Dan Aragaki, Gene Rector and Rick Zabor cutting a ponderosa on North Wilson Trail

Not too shabby for a group of retiree volunteers, who are paid at a GS-0 rate of pay. I'll take that back, our pay is the many kudos that we get from hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

There is also the satisfaction that we are doing something to enhance the trails for locals and our area visitors, together with the assistance to the USFS. My hat is off to all of the hard-working TMC crew. Mike

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.friendsoftheforestsedona.org

BRANCHING OUT EDITORS

Chuck Jenkins—Summer

Darl Ann Rector—Winter

A special thanks to all who contribute articles and pictures

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

JANET WALTERS AND NOREEN LISOWSKI

Sometimes a lucky committee leader arrives at the Forest Service Visitor Contact Office just in time to observe ALIEN BEINGS! Why not? It's Sedona, after all. A self-described ALIEN BEING appeared on Sunday, October 31 and accosted every volunteer and employee. To ensure that the ALIEN BEING was a satisfied one-time customer, **Spence Gustav** gave her concise directions to her final destination. **Bob Cook** extracted himself from her grip and directed her to the Halloween festivities in Uptown Sedona while she waited for her final departure. **Larry Frei** expressed concern that the ALIEN BEING sounded a bit like his missing wife, **Shermane**. We'll never know as the final destination of the ALIEN BEING was Bell Rock and her departure from our local landmark was imminent. By the way, has anyone seen **Shermane** lately?



Spence Gustav assists the ALIEN BEING



The ALIEN BEING was very fond of Bob Cook

Are you interested in having fun while you volunteer? You do not need to hike the trails of Red Rock Country to be a Frontliner. You will learn about trails during the Frontliner class and while you work alongside experienced hikers such as **Lois Johnson**. If you would like more information on training as a Frontliner, contact

Jan Walters

at vis@friendsoftheforestsedona.org or 284-1339.



Lois Johnson suggests an appropriate trail

TRAIL PATROL

DARL RECTOR

Yes, that's a new name on the Trail Patrol Committee. Jeff Dunn wanted to retire and since I am very interested in promoting Trail Patrol, I will give it a try. We owe a lot to Jeff and his bookkeeping skills and the many hours he has spent over a period of seven years keeping track of our hours. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH, JEFF !**

With help from several people who have volunteered, I will be attempting to greet new people who sign up for trail patrol, create opportunities for singles who need hiking mates, encourage present members to be more active and turn in their hours. We will attempt to have an e-mail communication method that will serve everyone's needs. With more FOF members out there on the trails, we can help visitors more and also identify trail work which needs to be done and convey it to the trail maintenance committees and promote safety.

With all the beautiful trails out there, I hope those of you who like to hike will come along and enjoy getting some exercise. You can reach me at: 928 634 3942

Darl



Jeff Dunn congratulates Gene Rector on his many hours of Trail Patrol

TRAIL PATROL HOTSHOTS

GENE RECTOR AND KEVIN HARDING

The Hotshot Crew began their fall work on October 11th and found plenty of trees down to keep them busy. Last spring when **Justin Loxley** was giving the Crosscut Saw Class, he noted that my saws were not being sharpened correctly. During the summer, Justin, with the approval of his boss, **Brian Poturalski**, sharpened three saws for us. They work very well as noted by the picture below of a fair-sized Ponderosa we cut on the David Miller Trail.



Crew members this fall are: **Kevin Harding, Dan Aragaki, Rick Baldauf, Mike Haboush, Ron Rusk, Bob Wych, Al Gilson, Bob Tener, Darl Rector and a new member, Garry Neil**. The crew put in over 200 hours by mid-November working on Vultee Arch, Sterling Pass (both sides), Bear Sign, David Miller, Secret Canyon, Woods Canyon, Girdner, Broken Arrow and Schnebly Hill. Thanks for the great work !! Gene

MORE PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



New FS Volunteer Coordinator, Angela Abel with the “Year in Review” created from photos from all the committees



Roy Julian receives a beautiful Sedona landscape from Heather

At right: Bill Kusner provides the statistics for the year with over 26000 hours donated by the Friends



Past President, Dennis Parker was enjoying seeing his friends



Jeff Upshaw with his certificate and the new horse he has been training



Treasurer Dean Campbell gives the financial report

Below: Mike Ward talks about grant projects



Annual Meeting Crowd



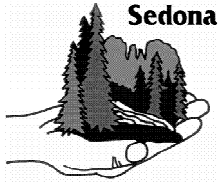
Al Cornell memorializes Norm Herkenham who passed away in October after spending many years working in the Friends. Many people asked Norm how he kept going after he was in his 80's and his answer was always, "Just never stop".



Jennifer Burns speaks about Recreation Projects



Ambassador at Large Helen Campbell



Sedona

Friends of the Forest

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 8 - 9:00 AM - Ranger Station

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome



Future Board of Director Meetings:

February 23, 2011

April 20, 2011

June 15, 2011

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.