



# Branching Out

## Friends of the Forest Sedona

Volume 2009, Issue 1

February 2009

### **From the President**

**Roy Julian**

New officers were elected for 2009 by the Board of Directors at the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Carol Wirkus was elected as vice president, with Dean Campbell as treasurer and Susan Vitek as secretary. I will be following Mike Ward as president.**

Mike has been an exceptional president for the Friends. He and the grants committee submitted grants for \$473,000 from which the Friends and the Forest Service received \$459,700 in approvals. This is an outstanding achievement with the money being put to good use rounding out the interpretive displays at the new visitor center, as well as for many other worthwhile projects.

Mike reorganized several key positions and procedures in the Friends to help our organization run more smoothly and efficiently. He obtained liability coverage for officers and directors, implemented an annual audit, improved communication and project request procedures with the Forest Service and emphasized the importance of reporting our volunteer hours.

During Mike's term as president, the Friends received the Spirit of Sedona Award as well as KSB's Service Award. While these awards clearly reflect the important work we all do, I believe they also demonstrate the leadership and energy that Mike, Chuck and previous presidents have put into the Friends.

Mike was the driving force behind creating and constructing the fine geology exhibit now on display at the visitor center. In addition to being president, he continued work-

ing very actively in numerous other committees and projects, including the Wranglers, Orchard, Publicity, River Rangers, Road Count and Fossil Creek.

In addition to his many activities with the Friends, Mike has also recently begun serving as the captain of the Verde Search and Rescue unit, and is regularly out in the canyons and mountains at 2:00AM looking for some lost hiker. He also serves with the League of Women Voters, and still occasionally leads hikes for the Westerners.



**New Officers for 2009: Secretary, Susan Vitek; Treasurer, Dean Campbell; Vice President, Carol Wirkus; and President, Roy Julian**  
Picture by Mike Vitek

Mike's passion for the Friends, his enthusiasm, friendliness and sense of humor have been infectious to all of us. Happily, Mike is not going anywhere, and continues to contribute strongly to the Friends through his chairmanship of the grants committee and NFF, as well as continued active participation in all of the committees listed above.

I know that Carol and I will continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience as we go forward.

**Carol Wirkus** comes to us from the Midwest where she previously worked as Director of Marketing and Planning at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She and her husband Frank moved here in 2005 and immediately joined the Friends as lifetime members.

During the National Forest closure in June 2006, Carol spent long hours glued to her computer, as she slotted 671 hours of Friends and KSB volunteer time to staff

three popular entrances to the forest. She and Frank were named **Volunteers of the Year for 2007**, in part as recognition of their exceptional efforts during that difficult fire season.

For the past two years, Carol served as our Membership chair and was also very active on the Publicity committee, working at the Forest Service administrative building, and doing Trail Patrol. In their spare time, Frank and Carol also volunteer for Verde Search and Rescue, where Carol serves on the board as secretary. In addition, she is on the board for the League of Women Voters. The Friends are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed individual as our new vice president.

Carol and I have worked closely together on activities for the Friends, on the board of Search and Rescue, and in several other capacities, and have developed a good friendship as well as a working relationship. My thought is to continue the management style that Mike and I had during his presidency by making it a mutually collaborative effort.

We are also fortunate to have **Dean Campbell** reelected as treasurer. Dean is now in his 8<sup>th</sup> year as our treasurer and has done a fantastic job. As you may know, Dean is a retired dentist who had a very successful military career at command level for the Navy. He also worked in private practice between and after his military service. He was also recently elected as **President of ANHA**, which will help our two organizations coordinate their efforts even better in the future.

**Susan Vitek**, our newly reelected secretary, has also been very busy in the Friends and our community at large. She regularly volunteers at the Forest Service administrative building and VIS, for the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, and Verde Search and Rescue. Her well known sense of humor and speak-her-mind forthrightness have lightened many a meeting!

I would like to personally thank all of our new officers for the extraordinary time and energy they are devoting to the Friends.

Carol and I met with **Heather Provencio**, District Ranger, on January 6<sup>th</sup> following the Forest Service staff meeting. She reported that a full-time volunteer coordinator is expected to be hired by April and that Jennifer Burns, who is replacing Bill Stafford, will be reporting for duty in February. We look forward to working with Heather and her hard working staff.

As many of you may have heard, Mayor Rob Adams proclaimed January 27<sup>th</sup> as "**Friends of the Forest Day.**" This reflects the community support and recognition of the many contributions that the Friends make in the Sedona area.

Just a reminder that we should **all wear our FOF cap, vest and/or name badge when engaged in formal volunteer activities**, and log our hours each month with **Bill**

**Kusner** through your committee chair. I believe volunteering with the Friends should be meaningful and rewarding, and we should have fun while we do it! My door and ear are always open to any of your concerns or suggestions.

Roy Julian



**Outgoing President, Mike Ward, holding his plaque and wearing the jacket given to him by the Friends.**

Photo by Mike Vitek



**New Hospitality Chairman, Noreen Lisowski, flanked by the retiring Co-Chairs, Ruth Cornell and Toni Raymond, with their helper, Al Cornell, peeking in.**

Photo by Mike Vitek

## **BRANCHING OUT EDITORS**

**Chuck Jenkins—Summer**

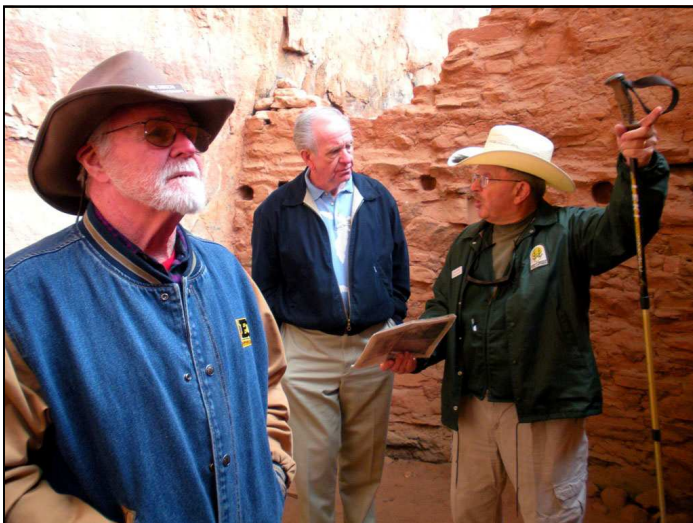
**Darl Ann Rector—Winter**

**Thanks to everyone who contributes articles and picture**

## Cultural Resources

*Jerry Walters*

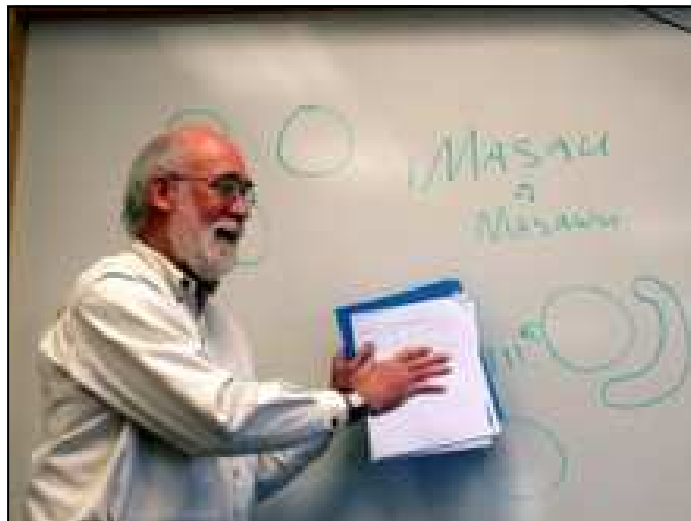
We have two new docents who have completed training. They are **Pat Sexton** and **Wil Gibson**. Special thanks go to **Ken Zoll** for providing **V-Bar-V** training and **Dean Campbell** for providing **Palatki** training and a tour of **Woo Ranch**.



**Dean Campbell (R) points out the fine points of pueblo construction to new docents Wil Gibson (L) and Pat Sexton(C)**". Photo by Jerry Walters

A full day Docent Refresher was held on January 14 in the Red Rock Ranger District (RRRD) Administrative Conference Room. The session was organized by **Terrilyn Green** (RRRD Cultural Resource Site Supervisor). The session was attended by 27 docents as well as the site hosts. The session provided a reminder of our essential mission of protection and educating visitors on cultural site etiquette and stewardship. Participants were given tips and techniques for improving their presentations by following guidelines for "Interpretation". A personal highlight of the meeting was a round robin session where participants shared their favorite aspects/ messages of the various sites and the group discussions that ensued for topics such as how to engage children (so that they are not bored or getting into mischief). Coconino National Forest Archaeologist **Peter Pilles** and RRRD Archaeologist **Travis Bone** were on hand to answer myriad and numerous questions. Peter also provided a slide show of Apache and Yavapai pictographs and petroglyphs. An added bonus was a hearty Dutch oven lunch

prepared by **Bill Stafford** and his faithful assistant **Bob Tener**.



**Coconino National Forest Archaeologist Peter Pilles discusses Palatki pictographs.**

Photo by Jerry Walters

The **Festival of Native American Culture** will be held from Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>. Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> thru Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> have been designated as **Native American Cultural Awareness Week**. Some of the events scheduled for this week include special docent led extended tours of **Palatki** (10AM & 1PM Tue, Wed, Thur), **V-Bar-V** (10AM & 1PM Tue, Wed, Thur), and **Sacred Mountain** (9AM Mon, Fri). There will also be 1 or 2 docents stationed at **Honanki** each day from 10AM to 2PM. The docent led tours are free, but will require a ticketed reservation and will be limited to 20 people. **Ken Zoll** will be providing more information later and will be soliciting volunteers in April with special training in May. More information about the festival can be obtained at: [www.http://.festivalofnativeamericanculture.org](http://.festivalofnativeamericanculture.org)

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

## **Visitor Information Services**

**Janet Walters and Noreen Lisowski**

Have you brought out-of-town guests to the Forest Service Visitor Contact Center for up-to-date information on trails and sightseeing opportunities or to experience the interpretive displays or the great view from the patio? Even a heavy influx of visitors into town shouldn't deter you from bringing guests to the VCC on any day of the week. Saturday, for instance, gets off to a crisp start when **Noreen Lisowski** (FOF VIS Committee Co-chair and ANHA Assistant Manager) readies the cash registers and Red Rock Passes so that early bird volunteer Frontliners, **Hans Scholling** (ANHA) and **Louisa Connell** (FOF), can assist Forest Service Frontliners in greeting early bird visitors. Then, as ANHA Manager **Emma Peshcke** explains, the "light turns green in Phoenix" which triggers carloads of visitors to arrive simultaneously and almost mysteriously at 10:00 am. Are the visitors drawn by the Bell Rock Vortex or is there a new VCC Patio Vortex? Fortunately, Frontliner ranks have been augmented by **Dean Patterson** (FOF) and **Chico Barroso** (ANHA) to accommodate the midmorning crowd. Later, the arrival of afternoon shift volunteers **Joan Chamness** (ANHA), **Sally Gardner** or **Bob Gardner** (FOF), and **Laura Jean Beeler** or **Andy Beeler** (FOF) reenergizes the crew in time to handle waves of midday and afternoon crowds. Recently, Past FOF President **Mike Ward** volunteered to interact with visitors at the interpretive displays on Saturdays or Sundays as his schedule permits.



**Several members of the Saturday VIS crew assist visitors.**

Photo by Janet Walters

This is a terrific bonus for weekend scheduling as is the decision of many other Friends to volunteer as substitutes. A fully-staffed Frontliner desk ensures that every busy day results in a good experience for visitors, volunteers and FS staff. So bring your out-of-town guests to the Visitor Center on any day of the week and they are guaranteed to receive an enthusiastic Red Rock Country welcome.

Newly-trained or returning Frontliners, who participated as substitutes during the busy holiday period, include **Toni Coon, Rosemary Johnson and Lois Johnson**. Regular shifts have been adopted by **Pat Sexton, Glen Buening and Doug Madison**. **Roger Mansoldo** will be missed as he has retired from his Friday morning shift.

As a reminder, a Frontliner class is usually offered each month by **Genny Riner** of the Forest Service. Contact me at 284-1339 or [jwalters@esedona.net](mailto:jwalters@esedona.net), if you would like to train as a Frontliner or would like to take a refresher course. Since we will experience greater visitor traffic in Red Rock Country throughout the entire month of March, I would like to fully staff the Frontliner desk each day especially during the busy 10 am to 2 pm period.

Janet Walters

## **Membership**

**Sonya Landholm**

It is with a great deal of pleasure that, in my first Newsletter report as your new Membership Chair, I can introduce a wealth of new FOF members. Since the December '08 Newsletter report, we have been joined by **Glen Buening, Wil Gibson, Merry Bolton, Martin and Lisa Glinsky, Barb Barna, Bruce and Joni Barna, Barbara and Kevin O'Connor**, and our old friend and now new Friend, retired USFS Ranger, **Bill Stafford**. We are also happy to have three new Lifetime Members: **Paul Schwartz, Rick and Eloise Baldauf**.

Please join me in welcoming these new Friends. We look forward to working with them in our mutual support of the Red Rock Ranger District.

Sonya Landholm

**All members are welcome at Board Meetings. Come and get acquainted with other Friends and learn what is happening in your organization. There's always great refreshments too.**

## **Trail Maintenance & Construction** **Rick Zabor and Bob Tener**

In November we placed a barricade at an **archeological site** that has seen ATV's running right thru this large ancient pueblo. We averaged 9 volunteers, 4 rangers & put in over 114 hours. Two wing fences and 23 metal posts were placed in holes drilled into rock with over 2 tons of concrete used to keep them permanent. On the way out we helped remove a refrigerator that was bullet riddled over 50 times.

**Airport Loop, Sunset, Bandit and Table Top** were brushed, drainages cleaned, improved the tread, picked up trash and closed social trails in all of the 4.3 miles. **Lizardhead Trail** is a newer trail but 6 social trails were closed and 20 steps were repaired. On **Mystic Trail** numerous social trails were closed, 12 drainages cleaned, 6 new ones constructed and one new check dam was built.

The recent rains made trail maintenance easier since the problem areas are more visible and the soil conditions were optimal for re-contouring. Such was the case at **Boynton and Deadmans Pass** where we didn't get far but cured some larger problems. Four **large** rock reinforced rolling dips were rebuilt, 4 new check dams and drainage constructed for 2 large puddles. Of course at the lower elevations rain has fallen but at the upper ones, snow. **A.B. Young Trail** had both conditions because it has an elevation gain of 1600' just to the rim. We wanted to get further along this time since we were driven out by the heat in June. But even though the ground was mostly free of snow the shade allowed it to linger in other areas. Still we cleaned 17 drains, removed a tree and brushed. 10 people were not enough to finish this trail. Rather than access the trail from Bootlegger Campground, **Junipine Resort** allowed us access since the creek was higher and the rocks were covered in **ice**. Thanks to new members **Glen Buenning and Marty Glinsky** for joining us on this steep trail.

It's great when we get a large turn out. This allows us to accomplish so much more. Enter **Margs Draw** with 12 people, where in 1.5 miles we cleaned out 42 drainages, closed 7 social trails, removed 2 trees, constructed 3 new drainages, brushed and improved the tread locally. Again with a large group of 11 we covered 1.7 miles of **Broken Arrow/Submarine Rock Trails**. Here we introduced **Rick Baldauf**, a new volunteer, to

the ways of trail maintenance.

The sandstone in the area is quite abrasive and our gloves take their toll. So back to **ACE Hardware in Big Park** which came through with a nice discount and prompt service on some new gloves. **Thanks ACE !!!!!**

We always have **safety talks** at the beginning of a work session and I want to stress some of the more common points again. Trail work is **very physical** and I would like to remind all maintenance folks to listen to your body. When you feel you have pushed it, ease off. Always work with another person, **only do the level of activity that you are comfortable with**. Drink water, use electrolytes especially when it gets hot. If you don't feel well let someone know so we can take the appropriate action. Obviously these are just a few pointers but we have to stay vigilant to avoid any problems. More importantly when we follow these basic rules it allows us to have a lot of fun.

Rick Zabor



**January 16 Group at Broken Arrow Trailhead: l-r: Kevin Harding, Jerry Piepiora, Bob Tener, Glen Buenning, Ron Rusk, Larry Frei, Rick Zabor, Dan Aragaki, Gene Rector, Rick Baldauf.**

Photo by Joe Landholm

***V-V Archaeology Discovery Days (aka V-V Days) will be held on Sat. March 28th and Sun. March 29th. There will be similar demonstrations of Native American culture and crafts, primitive technologies, and pioneer life as in the past. However, this year there will NOT be an agave roast. A call for volunteers listing volunteer positions will go out in late February.***

**River Patrol**

**Mike Vitek**

River Rats are FOF volunteers who have taken trailer driving classes to transport River Rangers to their destinations. This means a forest service employee can do their regular job rather than being recruited as drivers. River Rangers restore areas to pristine beauty by removing litter and noxious weeds, depending on the season.

River Rats enjoy camaraderie on these trips, get to know areas that they've never been to and experience a "fragrance" peculiar to men and women who have been camping out. How many people can do that for FREE! For more info call Mike Vitek at 282-1076.



**River Rangers in January putting in at Childs for a trip to Horseshoe Lake. Part of monitoring the river includes weed surveys and putting trash in mounds for later recovery.** Photo by Mike Vitek

**In Memoriam**

Joe Swavely

November 10, 1917 – January 5, 2009

Joe was a founding member of Friends of the Forest and a longtime frontline volunteer. He is best remembered for his engaging smile, his sparkling eyes and upbeat personality.

He will be missed in Sedona and especially here at the Red Rock Ranger District. By Genny Riner

**Gratitude**

Help me to hold fast  
To old friends, Lord,  
They are the treasure of my heart.

I would clasp  
Them to my bosom.  
Let me sing praises  
For the jewel that is my wife,  
The light and compass of my life.  
She smoothes my path,  
Provides a kindly discipline.  
Let me rejoice Lord, in  
The rewards of grand-parenting.  
For their beautiful faces,  
And loving embraces  
Are good Fortune beyond compare.  
I have been blessed, Lord,  
With three stalwart sons.  
Not one is a rocket scientist.  
But all are prime  
As examples of the human race.  
I can not account,  
For my exceeding good fortune.  
But at times, Lord,  
During the vicissitudes of life,  
I must have done, with Your help,  
Some things right.

By Joe Swavely  
February 1, 2008

## Wranglers

### Helen Campbell

The volunteers who comprise the Wranglers pride themselves on safety. This requires knowing how to avoid a problem and constantly learning new and safer techniques on wide-ranging topics. Our Training Meeting this month was, as always, informative, interesting and crucial to the safe handling of the horses.

**Mike Ward, Al Gilson, Regina Gilson, Milt Moore, Diane Greathouse, Karin Keene, new member Merry Bolton** and I met at the Beaver Creek Ranger Station where our attention was focused on **William Hill**, USFS, Stock Manager. We gathered in the large grassy area near the barn, with four horses—plus Jenny the mule who refused to stay behind in the corral without her buddies.

As always Will's trainings are informative and interesting, and never hurried. He showed us the correct way to hobble a horse using three different types of hobbles—the simplest being the bandana from around your neck. It was obvious to see that all the horses were very familiar with being hobbled and took having their two front feet restrained in stride. This turned out not to be the case when Will showed us the proper way to stake-out a horse. Brownie wasn't so sure he agreed with this technique to keep a horse from wandering off.

Both of these skills are vital to anyone camping out overnight—accidentally or with planning. A third skill, equally essential, is how to high-line horses. We all had a chance to employ each system and once again Will introduced a brand new knot for us to learn how to tie. I wonder how many more he has up his sleeve. Our favorite knot remains the *Bank Robbers* knot but the one we learned today, we could quickly see, was fundamental to the success of high-lining a horse. We can easily move our skillfully tied knot up and down the high-line, but a horse can't budge it. Pretty amazing.

It is time for the Wranglers to get involved with the constant and frustrating clean-up of Fossil Creek. **Diane Greathouse** is coordinating this effort with the Forest Service. In mid-February most of the Wranglers will be taking an investigative, dry-run from the Strawberry Trailhead to the creek. Considering that when this task was being done with a truck, twice a month, and each truck brought out a pick-up load full of trash each time, it is clear that the horses and mules, and riders, have their work cut out for them. Vehicles can no longer drive into

the dam area, so it is up to our four-footed friends to make it possible to keep the Fossil Creek area clean.

**Janie Agyagos**, USFS Wildlife Biologist will soon have maps ready for us so that we can ride and GPS the range allotment fence-lines that are in pronghorn country. There are specific guidelines that must be followed. One principle is that the bottom strand of wire must be smooth and 18" from the ground. The slender, small pronghorn may look like it could easily sail over any fence but this simply isn't so. They go under the fence and sometimes at top speed. Deer and elk effortlessly jump over range fences.

Our biggest surprise was when we were shown the completed fence that will allow the horses and mules to move from the far, north pasture to the barn for feeding. This is something we have been waiting for since the inception of the Wranglers. We can thank **Al Gilson** for his persistence in getting the archaeological clearance, and crews to help him physically complete the fence. Al is a hard worker. His expertise and contractor's knowledge have helped the Wranglers immeasurably

Happy Trails, Helen



**Wrangler members, Collis Lovely and Karin Keene patrolling around Courthouse Butte. Collis is retired from the Forest Service and comes down from Flagstaff to participate in the Wranglers.**

**Remember to look at the website for the newsletter in COLOR along with more interesting information about the Friends of the Forest.**

[www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org](http://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org)

## **Trail Patrol Hotshots**

### **Gene Rector and Kevin Harding**

Since November 15, the Hotshot Crew has put in 428 hours working on 17 different trails around Sedona. The rain helped to make the soil workable to build drainage structures that will last awhile. A lot of work was done during this time on the Soldiers Pass/Brins Mesa area trails along with Munds Mt, Schnebly Hill, Long Canyon, Ridge and Carroll Canyon trails.

While working on the south end of the Ridge Trail, we were able to see a new trail below us and investigated to find a nice trail from the end of the Ridge Trail out onto a red rock plateau where we could look down on Crescent Moon Ranch. The trail extends down to the road near the Red Rock Crossing. We did this hike on the Sunday Hike of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Sunday Hike is a seasonal 2 hour hike that we do on Sunday afternoons to introduce new members to area trails, get them acquainted with other members and teach them how to do the paperwork for Trail Patrol. Our hours are very valuable to the Forest Service so it is important to turn them in. If you would like to be on the Sunday Hike e-mail list, please let me know at: [redrock-trail2@gmail.com](mailto:redrock-trail2@gmail.com).



**Sunday Hike Group: l to r Dan Aragaki, Jerry and Deneise Piepiora, Bob Tener, Darl and Gene Rector.**

**This is the view of Cathedral Rock from the new trail.**

Photo by Kevin Harding

The Hotshots and their spouses enjoyed a social time at the Rector's on January 9<sup>th</sup>. It is rare for all of us to be together because we are generally working in small groups. I am always impressed with the effort and quality of work put out by the Hotshots. Thanks to: **Bob Tener, Kevin Harding, Dan Aragaki, Darl Rector, Jerry and Deneise Piepiora, Buck Packard, Roy Julian, Rick Zabor, Marie Fox, Dave Nokes, John True and Joe Landholm.**  
Gene Rector



**Kevin Harding and Gene Rector constructing a rolling dip on Carroll Canyon Trail.**



**Butch Greathouse enjoys volunteering at the Information Desk at the Red Rock Visitor Center on a regular basis.**

## ***Volunteer Hours***

***Bill Kusner***

For the three months of the new fiscal year, the Friends have volunteered 5726.50 hours. Last year at this time we had 5679.50 hours. A summary for a few committees:

Cultural Resources - 688 hours

Patrol - 1672.50 hours

Trail Building - 456.50 hours

VIS - 1647.00 hours

Bill Kusner

## ***Weed & Seed Committee***

***Justine Kusner***

Two FOF members have answered my call to 'adopt' a small area of forest land. Ruth Cornell and Noreen Lisowski have volunteered to help weed out the two islands within the original Bell Rock TH. As of this writing, a workday is planned and will be followed up with close attention to their chosen area when warm weather brings out targeted weeds.

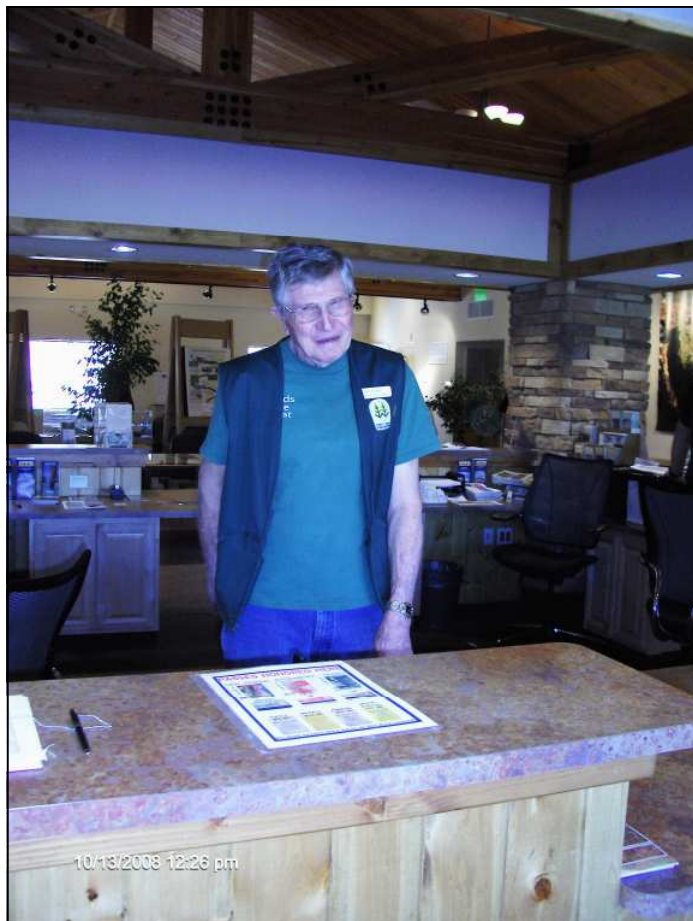
Justine Kusner

## ***Orchard Committee***

***Justine Kusner***

The orchard crew is revisiting the historic Willard orchard at Palatki. It was pruned two years ago and will benefit from more attention. Cold temperatures and snow have prevented further work on the West fork orchards.

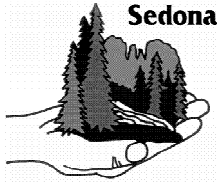
Justine Kusner



**Long-time Friends member, Dave Murray, helps visitors who come to the Red Rock Visitor Center.**



**Cultural Resources Chairman, Jerry Walters, explains petroglyphs and Sinaqua history to a group of visitors at V Bar V.**



**Sedona**

**Friends of the Forest**

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**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, February 18 - 9:00 AM - Ranger Station**

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

**All Members are welcome**



**Future Board of Director Meetings:**

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**April 15, 2009**

**June 17, 2009**

**September 16, 2009**

*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.*