



Helping to protect
National Forest Lands



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September 2009

From the President

Roy Julian

Some new folks in the Friends have inquired recently as to how and why the Friends selected our particular form of governance. In the first part of the President's column, I thought I would address this. Here are a few thoughts on the matter.

First and foremost, the election of officers and directors of the Friends is directed by our bylaws. The bylaws indicate that "the affairs of the Corporations shall be governed by its Board of Directors, consisting of the Officers and not less than four nor more than 30 additional Directors." The bylaws further dictate that "Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting by the membership."

In terms of officers, our bylaws indicate that "the Officers of the Corporation include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as may be created by the Board." An example of this latter statement was the Board's recent creation of the position of Assistant Treasurer, which was then subsequently filled by **Jan Lisowski** following his election by the Board.

The bylaws further show that "Officers shall be elected by the Board from its ranks and shall serve for one year without compensation." If I

have anything to say about it, we will be revisiting the compensation issue soon. (Just kidding!)

In addition to the bylaws, the Board of Directors has recently adopted a Policy and Procedures manual, with standard operating procedures (SOPs) that help our organization with some of the specifics of how officers and directors are nominated and elected.

Our SOP on this stipulates that a Directors' Nominating Committee, consisting of the President, Vice President and three other members, shall convene 60 days before the annual meeting. The VP serves as chair of this committee. This committee identifies a slate of at least one candidate for each open position on the Board.

In the interest of continuity, the committee canvasses directors whose terms are expiring (one third expire each year), to first see if they would like to remain on the Board. If the incumbent directors are willing and able to remain on the Board, they are automatically put on the slate for re-election. Following this, chairpersons of committees are asked for names of members they feel have demonstrated an exceptional level of interest and participation in the organization, which helps identify people to fill any re-

maining vacant positions on the Board.

The Vice President prepares a ballot of the committee's list of director candidates, plus space for a write-in candidate if members so choose. The Secretary tabulates any votes for write-in candidates and absentee ballots. During the annual meeting, the President calls for a vote of the nominated slate by the membership. If the slate is approved in by majority of those attending and voting absentee, the new Directors begin their term of office immediately.

For the nomination and election of officers, the SOP dictates that following the October meeting, the President shall empanel an Officers' Nominating Committee consisting of the Vice President and one to three additional members of the Board. The Officers' Nominating Committee is chaired by the Vice President.

This committee strives to identify at least one candidate for each officer position in the organization. In the interest of preserving continuity, current officers are canvassed to determine their interest and ability to serve another term in office.

Historically, the President and Vice President have each served for two years, with the President then stepping down and the Vice President being placed on the slate to become the new President, if elected by the Board. Officers serving as Secretary, Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer may serve as long as they are willing and able, provided they are re-elected by the Board each year.

The President calls for a vote on the new slate of officers by the Board of Directors during the December Board meeting, with provisions for any Director to nominate an alternative candidate if they so choose. The newly elected officers' terms begin immediately following the

election.

As you can see, the founders of the Friends clearly opted to select a type of governance emphasizing cooperation, continuity and cohesiveness (unlike our national elections!), rather than a "competitive" type of process. We do not have separate "parties" which compete with each other during the election process. The philosophy of the Friends strives to avoid the potential hard feelings, divisiveness, or sense of failure that the competitive model might engender.

Interestingly, many volunteer organizations around the country have a very similar type of governing model like ours, rather than the "competitive approach." In addition, this model has clearly served our organization very well for 15 years now, a record which speaks for itself!

Other news

The Board of Directors is considering a small change to our bylaws under Article 13, Financial Administration, paragraph 3, where it says "All Corporation funds shall be deposited in an insured financial institution," to "deposited in an insured account," as the FDIC insures only accounts, not institutions.

The following SOPs were adopted by the Board into our Policy and Procedures Manual:

Nomination and election of Directors

Nomination and election of Officers

Board voting by email between Board meetings

Membership recruitment and publicity policy

Fundraising policy.

In the future, the Forest Service will require periodic "tailgate safety session" forms to be signed by participants. **Kelly Lawrence**, FS Volunteer Coordinator, is in the process of

determining how often this needs to be done by the various committees, as well as developing the forms for this purpose.



Upcoming Events for the Red Rock Ranger District:

- Sedona Community Fair September 19
- National Public Lands Day September 26
- Verde River Days September 26-27
- Yavapai County Fair October 1-4
- Fort Verde Days October 10-11
- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic October 24

Please call **Kelly Lawrence**, Volunteer Coordinator, 203-7535 or **Christina Montiel**, Visitor Information Services, 203-2902 for more information or to volunteer for an event.

PUBLICITY
CAROL WIRKUS

When **Susan Vitek** wrote a human interest story about FOF volunteers **Jan and Noreen Lisowski**, we received great coverage in both the "Red Rock News" and "The Villager." A photo of the Lisowskis appeared in both papers, along with the story about how Jan and Noreen generously give back to the community. Thank you, Jan and Noreen, for contributing so much to the Friends! Thank you, Susan, for your journalism expertise!

At the time this newsletter is going to press, our web site guru, **Ken Zoll**, is putting our new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) onto the FOF web site. The SOP includes information about how we manage membership, form and disband committees, nominate and elect directors and officers, recognize members with awards, handle requests from the Forest Service, etc. Take a look at our web site: www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org. You'll

probably find the SOPs if you click on "Member News," and then scroll down to "Documents."

This past year we earned \$105 when just 16 members linked their Bashas' Thank You card to the Friends' I.D. number, to take advantage of the "Shop & Give" program. The program will resume September 1 and run through the end of March 2010. By linking your card to the Friends' I.D.#24788, 1% of your shopping purchases will be donated to the Friends. How easy is that?

Carol Wirkus

Bashas' Shop & Give Program
Link your Thank You card to:
I.D. 24788

MEMBERSHIP
SONYA LANDHOLM

The Sedona Friends membership continues to grow at a steady rate. Since the June report, we have welcomed 17 new members. Several have responded to get-acquainted interviews.

Susie Anderson moved to the Village of Oak Creek five years ago. An Arizona native, Susie was a member of NAU's first graduating class after it became a University; prior to that it was known as Arizona State College. A former teacher and counselor, Susie always wanted to do volunteer work after retiring. She learned about FOF through newspaper articles and from visiting the new Visitor Contact Center. She will be training soon to work in VIS.

Jack and Ruie Luescher have been VOC

property owners for five years, having rented out their home initially and only recently becoming part-time residents, themselves. They are both CPAs and have a business in San Jose, CA. during tax season. Ruie, who is known as "Dee" to family and friends, indicates that the wealth of hiking opportunities available in Red Rock Country influenced their move to Sedona and also their decision to join the Friends. They look forward to becoming active in Trail Patrol.

Wendy Oden moved to West Sedona a year ago to live closer to her parents, who retired here six years ago. Originally from Virginia, Wendy has lived in Arizona off and on over the years. With a graduate degree in Eco Tourism, Wendy is hoping to find a job in northern AZ in the areas of Tourism, Marketing, and/or Communications. While looking for paid employment, Wendy decided to learn more about the area by volunteering, which led to her joining FOF. Her immediate interests are in Cultural Resources and VIS (where she is scheduled to soon begin training). Later she would like to try Trail Patrol and Trail Maintenance.

Anne Uruburu, another VOC resident, built her home in 2000 and moved from San Francisco, where she had lived most of her adult life. As a nurse, Anne worked as a Health Consultant. A two-year stint in Phoenix provided her opportunities to visit Sedona, and we all know how that can lead to Red Rock Fever and an eventual move! Since then Anne has become a Volunteer Extraordinaire in the community! Her involvement includes work with the Sedona International Film Festival, the Sedona Marathon, and Camp Soaring Eagle. As a nurse volunteer for the Red Cross, Anne opened shelters during both the LaBarranca and Brins Mesa fires, racking up an impressive total of 196 hours on those important endeavors. Anne sings in the

talented barbershop quartet, Sedona Swing. Her newest job is a big one: she has joined the Board of Trustees of the Sedona Public Library (Being a SPL volunteer makes her especially well-qualified for this job.) Describing herself as "environmentally conscious", Anne was motivated to join the Friends. And it is our good fortune that she had a free slot in her busy schedule to work a weekly VIS shift at the Red Rock Visitor Contact Center!

Other new members are **Edith Shulman, Steve and Leslie Hunt, Harriette and Tom Shelly, Catherine Weld, Linda and Robert Talton, Judith Barnes, Jacob Zahler, Kim Sutherland, and Linda Kahn.** A hearty Friends of the Forest welcome, one and all!

Sonya Landholm

FIRE TOWER LOOKOUTS
RICK ZABOR

This year was indeed different than past years. In May we were asked to cover both **Mingus Mt. & Apache Maid Lookouts(LO)** since there was no staff available. Eight of us eventually put in over 236 hours at both LO's. In early June an employee was hired for Mingus Mt. & the Fire fighters are to staff Apache Maid themselves. Consequently we were asked to stand-down. The saving grace was the fire conditions **never went to EXTREME.** Presently an opening exists at Apache Maid for a seasonal employee.

Of interest is that a number of lightening strikes did start fires near both LO's. The Forest Service is managing the fires this year. This direction allows the fire to burn & rid the forest floor of fuels & prevent catastrophic fires.

A few of us experienced what slick roads mean without ice. The rains of May made the road to **Apache Maid LO** to be just like ice since the mud acts much like it when wet. I have never seen it to be so slick. Ice has nothing over the mud on these roads. Finally, the other day I received a call from a volunteer at the Peaks district where they are setting up a Volunteer Lookout program. He requested our mission statement & procedures. Soon **Mt. Eldon, O'Leary & Woody Mt.** will have the advantage of more eyes on the Forest due to the efforts of volunteers.

Rick Zabor

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES
JANET WALTERS & JAN LISOWSKI

The pace of visitor traffic at the Visitor Center slowed during summer so VIS Committee members needed extra motivation on several hot and humid days. "Snake Day" certainly got nearly everyone's adrenalin rushing, visitors and volunteers alike. On Fourth of July weekend, both the Saturday and Sunday crews had an opportunity to learn firsthand from local snake experts, **Russell Dunn** and **Karen McClelland** (Joan McClelland's daughter), about a variety of snakes that inhabit Red Rock Country. As a result, **Barb Zeschke** felt comfortable wearing colorful live jewelry, while **Glen Buenning** surprised quite a few visitors at the Frontliner desk with his unique version of an Arizona bolo. **Norris Peterson** was so fascinated and tied up with a large slithery creature that it was difficult for Norris to sell any Red Rock Passes! Enjoy the pictures of these energized Frontliners. "Snake Day" was a great experience that we hope will be repeated in the near future for more of our volunteers.



Barb Zeschke with live jewelry!



Glen Buenning's unique Arizona bolo!

In other news, Frontliner **Alice Musgrove** is on the mend from hip surgery so we hope to see her back at the Frontliner desk in the fall. New FOF members **Anne Uruburu, Wendy Oden, Steve Hunt** and **Susie Anderson** joined the Committee at the Frontliner desk this summer. The Committee leaders express their appreciation to **Wendy Williams** and new FOF member **Judy Jagla** for their much-needed assistance as Frontliners in the ANHA bookstore. Finally, a special thanks to longtime Frontliner **Judy**

Cooper for adopting a hard-to fill Saturday afternoon shift.



Norris Peterson having too much fun at work!

Finally, FS Supervisor **Nina Hubbard** asked us to relay a request for additional Frontliners to volunteer at the Administration Building's Frontliner desk especially around midday. Call Nina at 203-2901 if you would like more information about the tasks and open shifts at the Admin Bldg.

Janet Walters

284-1339 or jwalters@esedona.net

CULTURAL RESOURCES

JERRY WALTERS

The **Festival of Native American Culture** was held from Friday June 5th thru Saturday June 13th. Monday the 8th thru Friday the 12th was designated as **Native American Cultural Awareness Week**. Thanks to **Ken Zoll** and **George Witteman** for supporting **V-Bar-V** for the extra days it was open. Thanks to **Spence Gustav** for supporting early morning guided tours of **Honanki** and **Palatki**. Next year promises even more archaeology related activities.

As an off shoot of the **Conference on Archaeoastronomy**, permission has been granted to erect scaffolding at V-Bar-V to study the boulders that produce the effect. The scaffolding will be in place from September 11 through 14th. The boulders will be studied for their placement and any evidence of manual manipulation. The site will remain open to the public during this time.

I would like to welcome new docent **Wendy Oden**. Special thanks to **Buck Packard** for conducting the Palatki training. For those of you who do not know Buck, he is one of our stalwarts at Palatki and has been interpreting and protecting the site since before the Cultural Resources Committee was formed!

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) for more information.

Jerry Walters 284-1339

TRAIL MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION

RICK ZABOR & BOB TENER

Since the end of May we have spent our time in **Oak Creek Canyon**. We were rained out one day but still covered **Thomas Point, Harding Spring, Purtymun, Telephone, Casner Canyon, West Fork, Sterling Pass, Allens Bend & Vultee Arch Trails**. We removed 81 trees, repaired 33 drainages, brushed over 11.5 miles, constructed 16' of berm wall, installed 4 steps and at Casner Canyon installed over 50 cairns. The interesting aspects are: the poison ivy is quite prevalent and the heat is not to be denied this year. I can attest that you

don't want to work at a winter's pace in the summer. My water intake could not keep up with my output. A word of caution on heat exhaustion for all of us.

An interesting trail is **Casner Canyon**, a beautiful view is to be had here but best left off your list of hikes for the summer due to the heat. We did not complete the trail so we'll back in the cooler times. This is also true for **AB Young Trail**. National Trails Day was June 6th and we worked near the **Courthouse Butte Vista** closing 2 social trails with help from **Kelly Lawrence & Brandon Haraughty** (Forest Service). Brandon has since left the District for Oregon. The crew enjoyed working with him on a number of projects. **Good luck to you Brandon!!!**

We did a trash clean up at **Grasshopper Pinic Area** where unfortunately a fair amount of broken glass was found along with diapers.

Ron Rusk, Marty Glinsky, Bob Tener and myself met with **Kelly Lawrence & Jennifer Burns**. The focus was to discuss upcoming projects, trail classifications and scheduling. A much better understanding of each others' roles and how we can help with trail work scheduling was accomplished. We will use the **Patrol reports from Jeff Dunn** to determine which trails need maintenance and generate a list to be approved by Jennifer. A number of projects coming up will be painting the kiosks, improving signage and installing cairns. Our resident construction expert is **Al Gilson** who with some help finished the sign at 179 (the entrance to the ranger station). He will lead us in redecking a bridge on the **Bell Rock Pathway** that is coming up shortly. It looks like our committee has a number of projects which generates a lot of job security and we thrive on it.

Rick Zabor

A VISIT WITH KEN ANDERSON . . . **HELEN CAMPBELL**

Baker City, Oregon, on the historic Oregon Trail is steeped with tradition and history, rich in the flavor of the 1890's. It is also home to District Ranger Ken Anderson and his wife, Arletta. When Ken left Sedona for the District Ranger position on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest they settled in Baker City. At his farewell party he extended an invitation "to stop in when you are in the neighborhood."

So we did!

Dean and I, and Darl and Gene Rector were traveling in Easter Oregon in July and decided to make it a point to look up our old Ranger and friend. Ken and Arletta very graciously invited the four of us to their lovely new home, for an afternoon Bar B Q. Their home is situated on fifteen acres of green pasture land, with views from the front windows past grazing sheep and horses to the majestic Blue Mountains just a mile away. Their view gives new meaning to the expression "picture window." Ken proudly showed us his state-of-the-art wood-working shop. This is not just a part-of-the-garage set-up. His shop is impressive as is the cabinetry Ken has been making.

I think Ken was surprised we had taken him up on his offer, but it was obvious he was genuinely pleased and happy that we had. We had a delightful afternoon reminiscing and of course he wanted to know all about what's happening with the Friends of the Forest.

And we told him



Sedona

Friends of the Forest

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 - 9:00 AM - Ranger Station
FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting
All Members are welcome



Future Board of Director Meetings:

Wednesday December 9, 2009

Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday October 24, 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.