



From the President



Thanks to everyone who attended our annual membership meeting and recognition event last month at the Beaver Creek Work Center. We had an opportunity to celebrate our 25th anniversary year with the help of Sedona Mayor **Sandy Moriarty** who proclaimed November 2, 2019 to be Friends of the Forest Day in Sedona. Mayor Moriarty, a long-time resident of Sedona remembers well the founding of our organization and complimented us on the incredible value we bring to the community.

We also heard from our second President, **Dennis Parker**, who shared his memories of our formative years. In particular, he talked about how we and the Forest Service learned to make best use of the energy and dedication of our volunteers to the betterment of the Red Rock District. While our partnership with the Forest Service seems natural to us now, we were breaking new ground in the early years. And that partnership has only strengthened over the years.

During the business of the meeting we thanked our departing Board members: **Bev Jackson, Jim Manning, and Kurt Starbuck**. We also voted in a slate of board members that included returning members **Tom Cloonan, Spence Gustav, Bob Haizmann, Brian Painchaud, Joe Pokorski** and **Craig Swanson**, as well as new Board members **Annie Glickstein, Bea Logan, and Noreen Lisowski**.

The beautiful late fall weather and the delicious lunch courtesy of the Forest Service (as well as the special 25th Anniversary sheet cake that we provided) helped make the event a success. Recipients of Committee Service Awards and Special Service awards are listed on pages 12-14 of this newsletter.

Our next Board meeting is only a few days away—Wednesday, December 11 at 9 a.m. in the Ranger Station Administration building. As always members are encouraged to attend this meeting to keep informed on current activities and upcoming plans. A key item of business will be to formally appoint officers for the 2020 calendar year. Candidates are **Craig Swanson, President; Lynn Zonakis, Secretary; Joe Pokorski, Treasurer; Tom Cloonan, Assistant Treasurer**. We're in the process of identifying a candidate for Vice President.

Board and Membership meetings for 2020 will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday March 11

Wednesday May 13

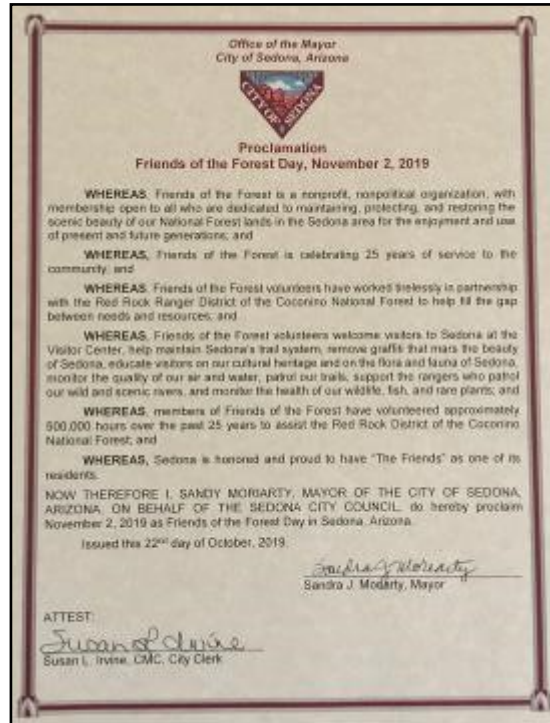
Wednesday September 9

Annual Meeting – November date TBD

Wednesday December 9

Craig Swanson, President



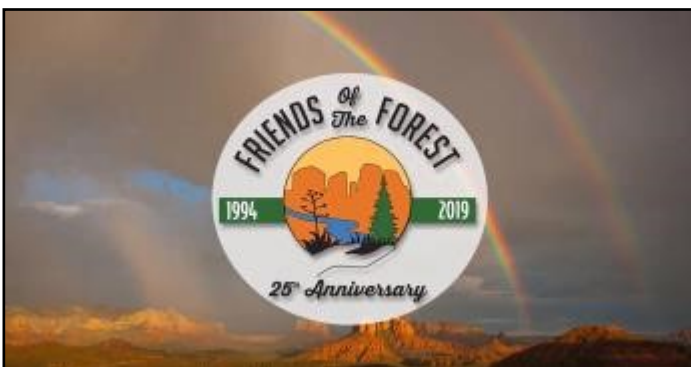


Sandy Moriarty, Mayor, City of Sedona presented Proclamation Friends of the Forest Day, November 2, 2019



Friends of the Forest Past President **Dennis Parker** spoke of the beginnings of the Friends organization at the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Technology Team



Online, for your viewing pleasure, are the history videos made by the Friends of the Forest in celebration of our 20th and 25th anniversaries. The four videos span from our humble beginnings in 1994 to our achievements of the last five years. Check out the Our History playlist on YouTube at [this link](#). There is also a link to the videos at the bottom of the members page on our website: <https://friendsoftheforestsedona.org/members> .

Marilyn Painchaud

Editor Note: to go to YouTube video do a Ctrl + click on [this link](#) in the above article.

Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plant Projects

Collaboration at its finest!

Annie Glickstein, a newly elected board member, will be chairing the W/F/RP committee with me. We have a mailbox for the committee: wildlife@fosedona.org. You may reach Annie or me (Marilyn Painchaud) at that address with questions or to report hours for W/R/RP activities.

Partnership Award: Janie Agyagos, Red Rock Ranger District Wildlife Biologist, received the United States Forest Service 2019 Southwestern Region's Partnership Award for:

excellence in collaboration among several volunteers and partners in conservation of the Arizona toad

her efforts in using vocal recording technologies and mobile apps to assist in detecting and recording Arizona Toads and various species of amphibians

and being a reptile and amphibian champion by leading the way in conservation through partnerships and as an individual.

Partners in this effort included twenty-eight Friends of the Forest volunteers in 2018 and 2019, US Parks and Wildlife, the National Park Service, and AZ Game and Fish. The award plaque is a 3D piece wooden topographic relief of the state of Arizona. Congratulations to Janie and all partners, well deserved!



Friends of Friends: Six FOF members were assisted by six Friends of Northern Arizona members recently in removing old range fencing at Apache Maid meadow. The old fencing poses an entanglement hazard for pronghorn sheep. The FOF crew cut and rolled the wire, the FNAZ crew hauled it out. A ton of old fencing was removed. Good friends, indeed!

Shhh! You're having too much fun!

One morning in late October, Janie commandeered the ranger station admin conference room and a long hallway for a bat net repair session. Eight Friends members inspected and repaired 14 nets: two 2.6 meter, three 6m, four 9m, three 12 m, and two 18m! Another repair session will be held on Wed, Jan 8th from 8-12 in the large conference room (and hallway!). Please drop a note to wildlife@fosedona.org if you are interested - sewing skills not required. The nets are very hard to see against a dark color and snag easily, so don't forget to wear a light-colored shirt without buttons or zippers.

Marilyn Painchaud



Friends members look on in awe as Dr. Dale Evans demonstrates his veterinary surgical skills repairing a gaping hole in a bat mist net.

Thank you to the 117 Trail Patrol members who signed their JHA for the 2019-2020 season. This is 74% of last year's Trail Patrol members, versus 85% from the previous season.

As of December 1, 2019, Trail Patrol members who have not signed their JHA for the 2019-2020 season have been removed from Trail Patrol. Those that have been removed can sign the JHA at any time and they will be reinstated.

We are continuing to offer monthly group Trail Patrol hikes, usually starting at 9 AM during the winter and early spring. Hikes vary, both short and long and easy to more difficult. During the hike, we will use the smart phone FOF Graffiti application to document trail issues like graffiti, brushing required, signage issues, downed trees, large amounts of trash that we didn't pick up, and any other issues that we come across. If you are a member of Trail Patrol then you will be getting emails with the group hike schedule during the first week of each month.

Compared to the previous year we completed 450 more patrols and hiked 25 more trails. Correspondingly, the numbers for hikers observed and engaged, bicyclists, equestrians, and dogs off leash also increased over last year. Some of this may be accounted for by the fact that the Forest Service added several new trails to the forest. Even with the longer period of Government Shutdown this past December and January we experienced a greater amount of Trail Patrol participation. The amount of trash removed this past year was 150 pounds less. Hopefully this means that our visitors are more conscientious about packing trash out.

Please be timely in reporting your trail hikes.

Here is the summary for the 2018-2019 season.

Stats For the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Number of TP Members who hiked	115
Number of trails hiked	156
Number Trail Patrols	2278
Total Hikers Observed	41016
Total People Engaged	16091
Total Bikers Observed	8526
Total Equestrians Observed	193
Total Dogs Off Leash	1072
Total Lbs Trash Removed	531

Hope to see you on the trails.

Jon and Terri Petrescu

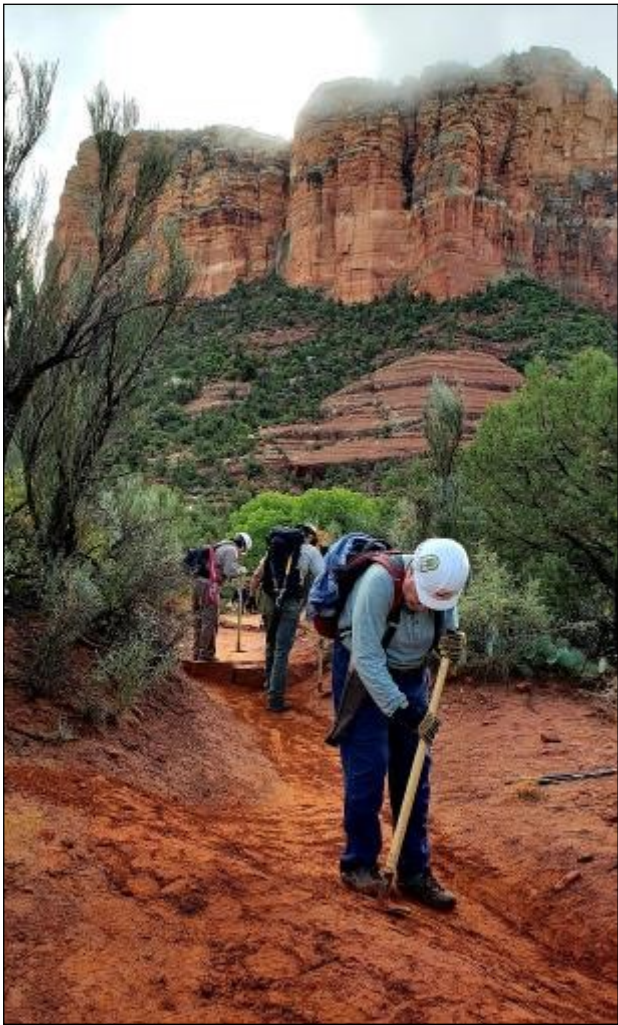
Greetings fellow volunteers,

We have been pretty busy these last few months assisting the FS in maintaining many of the heavily used trails. This should continue into December & the new year and now with all this moisture we can improve the much-needed drains that are already in place. This Thursday, Dec 5th is the FOF sponsored Trail Workday. We will work from the Aerie Trail Head on new trail construction, please come out and join us on this or any of the Volunteer Trail Days, it's fun building new trails take my word for it.

This will be my last newsletter article as Melissa Pontikes and Mike Boyd have graciously agreed to take over the TM&C chair. I will work with them on the transition & look forward to still coming out on Fridays and working with all the "Friends" I have made since joining this wonderful organization.

I would like to thank the FOF and the FS for giving me this opportunity to lead the TM&C group it certainly has been a fun learning experience.

Sincerely,
Jerry Checchia



Mike Boyd, Wayne Schwetje & Al Milavec doing some rock work on Courthouse Butte

Jerry Piepiora working drains on muddy Courthouse trail (left)



Rod Cashin & Tony Schuit working on reroute on AZ Cypress

Bill Logan and Jerry Piepiora working on Courthouse (left)



Pictures by Jerry Checchia

Who Is A Future Friends of the Forest President?

As we close out the 25th year of Friends of the Forest, our organization continues to enjoy a key ingredient of success: volunteers coming forward to serve as leaders. Whether it be Committee Chairs or a specialized role like Treasurer, a service organization of our size and scope cannot thrive unless members choose FOF leadership roles as part of their service to the Red Rock Ranger District. And the ability to hand off leadership roles through scheduled or periodic turnover is equally important. Few of us are looking for long term responsibilities in our volunteer careers. Knowing that others will come forward to take the lead helps us make these choices for ourselves.

There is one FOF leadership role which continues to challenge our usually successful succession efforts - that of FOF President. Why is this so? As one who chose to serve in the President role for two years, I have often pondered this question. My own decision to serve was not an easy one, but the actual job was neither difficult nor particularly time consuming. I stressed more over the decision than the actual work. Just as we help and support one another in our volunteer tasks, there are helpers and supporters available to our Presidents -- especially all those who have hoped that someone would please take the job so that they would not have to consider it!

For most of our twenty-five years, our Presidents served as Vice President for two years before becoming President for two years. I am the last leader who followed that pattern, and I agree that is a long commitment. Our last two Presidents served less than one year as Vice President, then moved on to President for two (with the VP role remaining

vacant for at least a year during their terms). This seems to be a more realistic pattern for our times. And I believe that our Board of Directors would consider shorter commitments if necessary, or even a shared or Co-President role. Our Bylaws set Officer terms at one year minimum.

In my own case, I was approached as a candidate while volunteering on the periphery of the organization, as Chair of the Orchard Committee (which has since become dormant). I knew very few FOF members and Forest Service personnel and was not yet well acquainted with our core activities. I had attended a couple of Board meetings and was not particularly drawn to that scene. My eventual decision to serve was based on my great appreciation for the work of the Friends, my belief that I had the skills to prepare and run an infrequent Board meeting, and an understanding that I would have knowledgeable help for anything else that was necessary. And so, it was.

And so, it will be for the next brave candidate who comes forward. Are you willing to serve the Friends in this manner for a period of time? Are you curious to just find out more about the role of President? It comes down to the fact that someone needs to serve in this way, as others have before, for FOF to thrive and meet the future. I can say it's a hugely proud place to fill as a volunteer in our awesome organization.

If you have interest or questions regarding FOF leadership opportunities, please contact **Craig Swanson** craig.swanson@fosedona.org.

Jennifer Young, President 2015-2016

RED ROCK RANGER STATION PROGRAMS

Red Rock Geology Walk led by Chris Weld

Nature Hike and Birding Walk led by Kevin Harding

First Friday Events like "Red Rock Country from the air" presented by Ted Grussing on December 6 at the Red Rock Visitor Center

Check out the list of events, dates and times on the Friends of the Forest Website Event Page

<https://www.friendsoftheforestedona.org/events/>

For location information and to register, call 928-203-2903

Site Recording Project (SRP)

The team has resumed activities until late spring/early summer. Thanks to SRP Team Members, **Roy Julian** and **Paul Cooley**, we have many more prehistoric sites to record. There are many sites in the RRD that are not in the FS files. We recently recorded our 50th site in the RRD!

If you have visited a remote archaeology site recently and wondered if it has been recorded, please email **Scott Newth** at rsnewth@msn.com, and he will get back to you if the site has been previously recorded. If not, he will add it to the list to record.

If you are interested in helping with this project, or would like more information, please contact Scott Newth at rsnewth@msn.com. (928-274-7773)

Rock Art Cameras

After a theft of a FS camera in Hartwell Canyon, sometime in September, we have replaced the camera and are back to our five sites under camera surveillance. The cameras are primarily to count visitation for the Forest Service. The Holiday season is a busy time for rock art site visitations and will be interested to see how this year matches up to last year. Thanks again to the FoF, which pays for all of our batteries for this important project.

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

The team has continued to enhance their skill in the various photogrammetric tools that they use. They have just begun a

collaboration with an Arizona State University lichenologist to evaluate and document the impact of lichen on petroglyphs at V-Bar-V and Red Tank Draw using advanced 3D techniques. The team has also begun to use a drone to obtain photos of selected sites (NOT in wilderness) for detailed aerial 3D models.

If you are interested in helping with this project, or would like more information, please contact **Spence Gustav** at spencehg@yahoo.com.

Docent Program

The Cultural Site visitation stats are in for FY2019. Despite the government shutdown and numerous weather-related closures, we were pretty much on par with FY2017. FY 2018 was a record year. Our 5-year average for all sites is **68,641** visitors (Palatki:**25,087**; V-Bar-V:**14,796**; Honanki:**28,758**). This represents a **15%** increase since **2012** and a **58%** increase since **2006**! Protecting our sites and educating our visitors is an ever-increasing task.

We are always in need of new docents, particularly if you spend all or part of the summer months in the Verde Valley!

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 (docents@fosedona.org) for more information.

Jerry Walters 284-1339

River Ranger support is looking for drivers to assist the Forest Service Rangers to their put-in and take-out at Beasley Flats and Childs and down to Horseshoe Lake on the Verde River. Congress has designated the Verde as a Wild and Scenic River, the Rangers do 10 - 12 trips from October to April doing removal/treatment of invasive species, keep the waterways open by cutting strainers, removing fallen trees, and hauling out trash which constantly accumulates due to the rise and fall of water levels. Two to three rigs are used to transport the river rangers, their inflatable kayaks, equipment and all of their supplies to and from the Verde River at several put in and take out locations.

The Friends "River Rats" assist by driving the vehicles needed to transport staff and equipment. Our drivers require a Forest Service government driver license, to obtain a license, it requires passing an online defensive driving course which

takes 4 to 6 hours and having your driving record checked by the Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer (which can take several months).

If you enjoy driving and the close camaraderie with the Forest Service rangers and other members of the "River Rats", contact me at riverrangers@fosedona.org.

Mike Ober

Volunteer Hours

As reported at the Annual Meeting in November, the Friends had a strong year for volunteer hours during the Forest Service's Fiscal Year '19, just shy of the record set in FY18. The 35-day Government shutdown curtailed most of our FOF activities, but our members made up for this with vigor once the shutdown ended and the weather improved. Here's the recap of the hours by committee, compared to last year's totals:

Committee	FY19 Hours	FY18 Hours	Change in Hours	% Change
Air Quality	468	528	-60	-11.3%
Cultural Resources	8,561	10,163	-1,602	-15.8%
Graffiti Removal	1,751	1,507	+244	+16.2%
Interpretive Pgm	384	591	-207	-35.0%
River Rangers	249	242	+7	+2.9%
Special Projects*	273	917	-644	-70.2%
Trail Maint&Const	3,664	3,355	+310	+9.2%
Trail Patrol	9,057	7,646	+1,411	+18.5%
VIS	4,114	4,953	-839	-16.9%
Water Sampling	298	202	+96	+47.5%
Wildlife/Fish/Plants	4,206	3,187	+1,019	+32.0%
Admin/Meetings	2,698	2,838	-140	-4.9%
Total	35,723	36,127	-404	-1.1%

Overall, a total of 260 members volunteered their time during this period (October 2018 thru September 2019), with an average of 137 hours per member. We had fifteen members who contributed in excess of 500 hours each, including two who had over 1,000 hours! Wow!

As a reminder, please report ALL hours (including Admin hours for Committee chairs and all Trail Patrol hours by individual members) as soon as possible at the end of each month, but no later than the 7th of the next month. This allows us to consolidate and update the hours in each member's NEON profile in a timely fashion.

NEON (Member Information Software)

Our administrative software (NEON – Nonprofit Enterprise Online Network) has really streamlined our membership management process and provides valuable information to our FOF leadership. Remember that you can log in to your own profile at any time to update your contact information, as well as your seasonal dates, skills/knowledge, and the expiration date of your Government Driver's License (for drivers of Forest Service vehicles; note that these were recently extended by 1 year per the FS, and has now been reflected in your account). Renewing your annual membership (or making an additional donation) is easy –

just click on the "Renew/Donate/View" option, then click on "Donate Now" and complete the required information. You can pay on-line using a credit card via PayPal (you don't need a PayPal account), or you can select to "Pay Later" and mail in a check. You can also view your total FOF hours by fiscal year from 2014 forward, with the current year updated on a quarterly basis.

To log in, go to the Friends website <https://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org/> click on Members Area, then click on Member Updates. Instructions are provided directly below the Member Updates button.

Peg Kern

This is my first report as Membership Chairman and I am happy to report that since our October 23rd board meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration at Beaver Creek Work Station, we have gained seven new members. 2 individual, 2 family and one life individual member, bringing our total membership to 586.

Individual members are **David Cole and Mae Woodard**. Joining as a life individual member is **Gina Zappia**. Family members include **James and Linda O'Grady** and **Roger and Jill Wadland**. Welcome all! We look forward to your involvement in FOF.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank **Bea Logan, Cynthia Malowitz and Jessica Baldischwiler** who joined me for an FOF tabling event during National Night Out at Posse Ground Park on October 5th. We spoke to attendees about the Friends, and handed out information, pins and stickers to those who stopped by our table. Several people signed up for more information about FOF and Craig Swanson later contacted all who signed. Hopefully some of them will decide to become FOF members.

Lastly, preparations are being made for our annual Welcome Event which will be held on Thursday, February 27th. I will be asking for volunteers to help out with the event as the date draws near. Look for more information in the coming months.

Noreen Lisowski,
Membership Chair

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday March 11, 2020 9:00 AM - Ranger Station

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

March 11, 2020

May 13, 2020

September 9, 2020

Annual Meeting - November TBD

December 9, 2020

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.

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

This year, the Graffiti Removal Team set another record for hours in the field. Our group spent over 1700 hours removing scratches, markers, and paint. It's not a record we were trying to achieve. Because of our eternal optimism, we believe that we're keeping up with new graffiti and raising the awareness amongst the visitors and local hikers, thereby eliminating at least some of the copycat damage and ultimately reports would decrease. Such was not the case this past year.

Although we did respond to fewer reports during the last quarter, the problems were much more pervasive and damaging and required not only many of our team but put a strain on our resources such as the very expensive Elephant Snot.

The attached photos showed some of the continuing paint issues. Particularly hard-hit areas were West Fork, Lawrence Crossing, and the White Bridge Recreation area. As everyone knows, Westfork is an extremely beautiful but long hike (in excess of 4 miles each way). I guess that because of the spectacular fall colors, hikers were out by the hundreds. As a consequence – so was the proliferation of graffiti. 12 team members recently spent approximately 6 hours covering the complete length of the trail. And, as you can see, it was not all

work, however. The ladies always keep the mood fun and enjoyable. Thankfully we had an excellent turnout with our ladies as well as the guys.

The most difficult paint area was the brick wall at White Bridge recreation area in Camp Verde. This was a unique effort in that the request originated by the Verde Ranger District, Prescott National Forest. They knew our team existed but was not sure about the limits of our efforts. As it turned out, the site is still on the Red Rock District (East side of the Verde River). Although the responsibility of the Verde Ranger District is west of us, their facilities are physically located in Camp Verde – in our district.

Of course, we have to keep a regular schedule to our “regular” hot spots – Bell Rock, Devil's Bridge, Cathedral Rock, and more recently, Doe Mountain trail and Mesa.

It's obvious that our team stays busy in all 4 seasons. However, all 80 of our members take great pride and satisfaction in knowing we really are making a difference in the forest. Sometimes that is all we have to keep from getting discouraged.

Keep the reports coming!

Jerry Piepiora, Chairman



*White Bridge Recreation Area,
Camp Verde Clean Up*

Thank you **Eric Christian**, Prescott National Forest for inviting and overseeing our team in this graffiti removal effort.

Our reputation is spreading.

Team members: **Adrienne Pichette, Evan Holz, Bill and Bea Logan, Mike Ober, Pete Malmgren, Jerry Checchia**

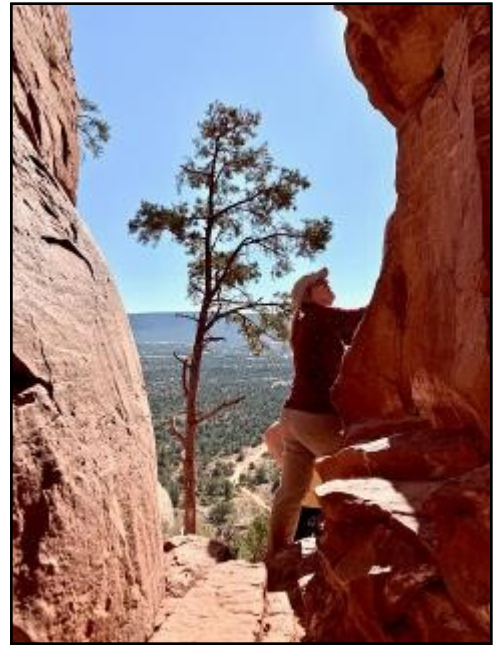




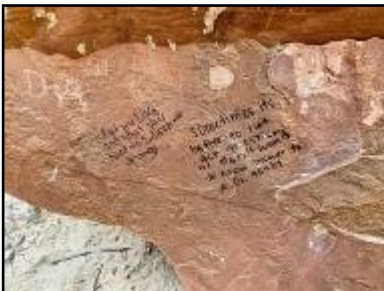
Bell Rock Clean Up

Bill Logan is cleaning up
“inspirational” graffiti. (left)

Annie Glickstein up in the
“Thumb” with more scratching.
Thank you Adrienne Pichette for
the great photo. (right)



Our Team of
Ladies keep the
mood fun and
enjoyable.
Thanks for your
hard work.



Very difficult to remove “Sharpie” notes in West Fork (left and center) Removing scratching (right)



The crew: back row – **Bill Heffner, Karen Hazzard, Paula Potter, Charlotte Danner, Jerry Checchia, Bill Logan, Rich Spinelli.** Front row – **Barb Heffner, Deneise Piepiora, Adrienne Pichette, our mascot – Chase, and Dan Aragaki**

Friends of the Forest Annual Meeting, November 2, 2019 Awards



New Volunteer of the Year

Annie Glickstein

Heart of the Friends

Ruti Lovett (not present)

President's Award

Rich Spinelli (not present)



Distinguished Volunteers

Richard Spencer-Coen and Peggy Spencer-Coen



Volunteers of the Year

Bea Logan and Bill Logan

Visitor Information Services – Bev Jackson

Rhett Atkinson (not present)

Fossil Creek Air Sampling – Brian Painchaud

Jack Evans (not present)



Friends of the Forest Committee Chairs gather to present the volunteer awards to their committee members.

L - R: **Brian Painchaud, Bev Jackson, Bob Wych, Marilyn Painchaud, Jerry Checchia, Mike Ober and Jerry Piepiora**



Water Sampling – Al Cornell, Chair

Michael Campbell, Cynthia Malowitz, Frank Wirkus, Michael Vitek



Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants Marilyn Painchaud, Chair

Richard Spencer-Coen and Peggy Spencer-Coen



River Ranger Support – Mike Ober, Chair

Frank Wirkus, and Mike Vitek (not present: Chuck Boyle, Rick Baldauf)



Interpretive & Educational Programs – Bob Wych, Chair

Ed Hodges



Graffiti Removal – Jerry Piepiora, Chair

Bob Haizmann, Annie Glickstein, Deneise Piepiora , Bill Logan (not present - Brad Kincaid, Les Heffner, Barb Heffner, Tom Likens)



Les Heffner and Barb Heffner receiving their awards

COMMITTEE AWARDS



Cultural Resources and Protection – Craig Swanson presented for chairperson Jerry Walters

John Losse, Wayne Swart, Wendell Waybright



Trail Maintenance & Construction – Jerry Checchia, Chair

David Murrill, Jim Manning, Annie Glickstein, Bill Logan, (not present: Wayne Schwetje, Pete Malmren)



Trail Patrol –Chairpersons Terri and Jon Petrescu
Bill Logan



Special Forest Service Tribute went to **Jim Starkey** for his 2000 trail sign . All the beautiful trail signs the Friends install are made by Jim.

Jim has supported the work of the Friends in many ways over the years and the Friends are happy to also give a special shout out to Jim . THANK YOU!