



From the President

In this issue

President's Message

The past few years have presented Friends of the Forest unique challenges and opportunities. From December 22, 2018 until January 25, 2019 the unprecedented 35-day federal government shutdown brought our activity to a temporary but screeching halt. While 2019 began on this challenging note, our activity the remainder of the year was more robust than ever, culminating in the celebration of our 25 years of service to the Red Rock District.

At our 2019 Annual Membership Meeting, we screened a special 25th anniversary video created by members **Maureen and Stu Aull**. The Mayor of Sedona, Sandy Moriarty, declared November 2, 2019 Friends of the Forest Day. We also heard from our new District Ranger **Amy Tinderholt** and from past President **Dennis Parker**.

While the first few months of 2020 began normally, all of that changed on March 15 when activity that required any sort of group to gather was halted. COVID-19 upended our world, and we are still reeling from its' effects.

As the Forest Service and our Committee Chairs regularly remind us, our first priority is always the safety of volunteers, staff, and visitors. With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that the Forest Service and Friends of the Forest made the correct call to temporarily cancel all group activities. Little did we know how long it would take to return to anything even approximating normal.

We took the first step toward returning to normal in early July when District Ranger Tinderholt authorized small groups from our graffiti and photographic teams to resume activity, following clear safety guidelines. Most recently, docent activity at V-Bar-V and limited staffing outside at the Visitor Center resumed, only to be shut down again due to the current surge in cases. If that surge continues at anything close to the current rate, more restrictions may be put in place.

The challenges of this past year have demonstrated that our fantastic group of volunteers is ready, willing, and able to resume our work as soon as conditions allow. We will help keep the Red Rock District one of the jewels of the National Forest system.

Thank you all for helping make Friends of the Forest one of the absolute best volunteer organizations anywhere. You have made the experience of serving as your President for the past 2 years singularly rewarding. Carry on and STAY SAFE!

Craig Swanson

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Volunteer Hours

As reported at the Annual Meeting in November (via Zoom), the Friends' hours were impacted by the restrictions and closures caused by the pandemic, and yet we still managed to set 3 new records! The pandemic disproportionately affected our committees; some were shut down entirely, while others were able to proceed due to the individual nature of the work, and so they actually had increased participation.

Here's the recap of the hours by committee for FY20, compared to last year's totals:

Committee	FY20 Hours	FY19 Hours	Change in Hours	Percent Change	FY20 % of Total
Air Quality	239	468	-229	-48.9%	0.8%
Cultural Resources	5,691	8,561	-2,870	-33.5%	19.0%
Graffiti Removal (new record)	1,839	1,751	+88	+5.0%	6.2%
Interpretive Pgm	350	384	-34	-8.9%	1.2%
River Rangers	229	249	-20	-8.0%	0.8%
Special Projects*	262	273	-11	-4.0%	0.9%
Trail Maint&Const	1,757	3,664	-1,907	-52.0%	5.9%
Trail Patrol (new record)	11,534	9,057	+2,477	+27.3%	38.6%
VIS	2,006	4,114	-2,108	-51.2%	6.7%
Water Sampling	0	298	-298	-100.0%	0.0%
Wildlife/Fish/Plants (new record)	4,309	4,206	+103	+2.4%	14.4%
Admin/Meetings	1,663	2,698	-1,035	-38.4%	5.6%
Total	29,879	35,723	-5,844	-16.4%	100.0%

Overall, a total of 255 members (42% of membership) volunteered their time during this fiscal year (October 2019 thru September 2020), with an average of 117 hours per active member. We had twelve members who each contributed in excess of 500 hours, including one who had over 1,000 hours! Wow! Here's the list:

500 Club (Members with 500+ hours in FY20)	
Harris, Michael	1,477.00
Gustav, Spence	949.50
Walters, Jerry	820.50
Neil, Garry	783.50
Atkinson, Rhett	734.70
Spencer-Coen, Richard	707.25
Glickstein, Anne	694.00
McClimans, Don	691.00
Walters, Janet	669.65
Spencer-Coen, Peggy	658.60
Newth, Scott	569.50
Evans, Dale	551.00

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).

Remember that annual memberships are on a calendar year basis, so now is a great time to show your continued support for the Friends. 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

Interpretive Programs

Season's Greetings to all FoF members/volunteers ...

This is my first newsletter article as Interpretive & Educational Program (IEP) Committee Chair. My husband, **Bill Logan**, and I have been involved with Friends since Feb 2019 and between the two of us volunteer at the Ranger Station Visitor Center (VIS), Palatki VIS, Sedona Chamber of Commerce VIS, Graffiti Removal, Trail Maintenance, and Trail Patrol. I am excited to explore this new “job”, chairing the IEP Committee. It has been a slow start and I really don't feel that I have done anything yet. LOL.

Fortunately, my predecessor, **Bob Wych**, will be around for any questions I will undoubtedly have. On behalf of the Friends, we would like to sincerely thank you, Bob, for all your work and dedication these last 3 years and no doubt will see you around at other FoF activities. One of our previous speakers, **Chris Weld**, has decided to “retire” from Forest Service speaking engagements. We appreciate all you have done these past years, informing the public about our great Sedona Red Rocks. I would also like to extend a warm

welcome to **L.J. Varon-Burkhart**, the new RRRD Visitor Information Services Supervisor, Interpretation/Education & VIS Volunteer Program Manager. Looking forward to working together in the future.

Since mid-March, all IEP activities have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and I don't see it starting up until sometime next year, except for any virtual activities. There are some plans in the works to make a few informational videos to share with the public.

I know most people are tired of following the CDC guidelines for COVID-19, but please keep yourself and your family and friends safe. It will be hard throughout the holiday season, but we need to keep going until safe vaccines are available for everyone. Best Wishes to all for a healthier 2021.

“May the Forest be with you!”

Bea Logan
IEP chair

Treasurer

Employer Matching Donations After Retirement

Did you know that many employers will contribute matching dollars for the volunteer hours you contribute to non-profits even after you retire? Many large and small companies will contribute matching dollars for volunteer hours to FoF while you are employed, some will continue to match even after you retire. Many are generous enough that they will donate \$10 to \$15 for each documented volunteer hour you contribute to a non-profit. If you work for or have worked for a company that provides matching donations, please consider contacting your HR department to see if you are still eligible. A few of the employers that do match volunteer hours for retirees are: Intel, Aetna, Chevron, Pfizer, IBM,

Exxon/Mobile, Bank of America, Conoco/Phillips, Allstate and Prudential. It is approaching year-end when many of these employers require your volunteer hours to be submitted to them to process a donation. If you aren't already using your volunteer hours for another non-profit, please consider Friends of the Forest as a recipient for all the hard work you do for us. Your matching dollars will help us fulfill our mission of support for the Red Rock Ranger District. Please contact our treasurer, Joe Pokorski at treasurer@fosedona.org or 480-227-4904 if you need information to submit to your present or former employer. He can provide the proof of non-profit status, tax ID and bank deposit/routing information they may require. **Joe Pokorski**, Treasurer

Membership

Membership Report:

I'm happy to report that despite the pandemic, FOF has continued to attract new members. Since I somehow managed to have missed reporting in the last newsletter, this list includes new members from 4/27 thru 11/15. These include:

5 Individual, 7 Family, 2 Life Individual and 4 Life Family. Total membership stands at 605.

Individual: **Marjorie Ayala, Pete Claggett, Bill Danner, Laura Stewart, John Zieran**

Family: **Beth & Louie Caparelli, Terri & Glen Gill, Kathy Hamilton & Jerry Bloom, Scott & Christine Liske, Steve & Geralyn Smith, Theresa & Michael Vos, Marilyn & John Wheatley**

Life Individual: **Melissa Andrea, Chuck Armstrong**

Life Family: **Clay & Sue Dunsmore, Dona & Mike Johnson, David & Margie Terrell, Charley & Rhoda Pitcher**

A warm welcome to all and I hope to meet all of you when circumstances allow. Stay safe everyone and Happy Holidays!

Noreen

Trail Patrol

I am extremely happy to report that this past year Trail Patrol members have continued the tradition of breaking previous years records in number of trail patrols completed and the total number of hours on the trails.

Thank you to all of you Trail Patrollers that continued hiking this Spring and Summer during this period of Covid-19. Compared to the previous fiscal year the only numbers that were down was the number of active trail patrol hikers. Amazingly, the number of hours hiked, and the number of trails patrols was up by 31% and 28%, respectively. It appears that Covid-19 did not keep people from hiking. Here is the table of what you did this past year compared to the previous year.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Delta	% Delta
Number of total TP hikers	115	104	-11	-10%
Number of trails patrolled	156	168	12	8%
Number of Trail Patrols	2278	2983	705	31%
Number of Hours Hiked	9057	11565	2508	28%
Total Hikers Observed	41016	44558	3542	9%
Total People Engaged	16091	16113	22	0%
Total Bikers Observed	8526	9500	974	11%
Total Equestrians Observed	193	223	30	16%
Total Dogs Off Leash	1072	1439	367	34%
Total Lbs Trash Removed	531	624	93	18%

In addition, more system trails were patrolled this past year compared to the previous year. Here is the list of trails that were not patrol this past year. Most of these are wilderness trails and maybe a little more difficult to get to. Please keep these in mind for trying to get to this year. Some of you may notice that some trails are in the West Clear Creek Wilderness, which the Red Rock Ranger District splits responsibility with the Mogollon Rim Ranger District.

We are continuing to not offer group trail patrols at this time, but plan on offering them again when approved by the Forest Service.

Currently there are 117 trail patrol members who have signed both the Covid-19 and Trail Patrol JHAs for this year.

Please stay safe.

Jon and Terri Petrescu

System Trails Not Hiked

Allen's Bend

Calloway - Wilderness

Dogie

Fossil Springs - Wilderness

HS Canyon - Wilderness

Kachina Equestrian

Loy Link

Mail - Wilderness

Maxwell - Wilderness

Secret Mountain - Wilderness

Thompson Ladder

Tramway - Wilderness

The vast bulk of activities for the Cultural Resources Committee continue to be shut down due to the pandemic. A few tasks that are either solitary in nature or involve just a spouse and/or hiking dog have managed to continue.

Troubling Behavior

Even though Palatki and V-Bar-V are closed to the public, we still have our site hosts on site to help protect the sites. We have had regular and all too frequent attempts of people entering the sites by foot or on bicycles (lifted over the gates). Along with this has been ongoing graffiti reports at Honanki and other cultural sites in the Red Rock District. This has come to the attention of many folks including the Sedona City Council. **Scott Newth** has prepared an excellent one-page synopsis of cultural resources in the Verde Valley as well as site etiquette information. These are Scott's comments about the endeavor:

"In recent discussions with the Sedona City Council about tourist overwhelming our local archaeology sites, the topic came up of providing our tourists with some "light" archaeology and site etiquette information, via a "one-page overview".

The vast majority of Sedona visitors (i.e. >3M annually) are not knowledgeable about our cultural resources or how fragile these sites are. The City Council hopes to provide this information to all visitors via our local visitor and tourists offices.

It was reviewed and approved by **Peter Pilles**, our Forest Archaeologist.

Education of our visitors is just one step we can take to help preserve our local cultural resources."

Thank you, Scott for taking on this task!

Site Recording Project

The project has been given approval to resume activities with the following restrictions: masks must be worn, social distancing must be practiced, and no carpooling with a non-cohabiting person. The number of participants for each outing will be reduced as well. At this time, the team will not be taking on any new members. Outings should resume in early December and occur every other week as has been the practice in the past.

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

This team has become a victim of it is on success with the recent addition of several projects reported in the previous newsletter.

HELP WANTED:

- 1 - Photo documentation of known sites in parallel with our ongoing efforts
- 2 - Paleo Petroglyph Study - Computer based annotation of petroglyph images
- 3 - Paleo Petroglyph Study - field based (Palatki) evaluation and annotation of petroglyph superposition

Each of these jobs require precise and extensive effort. As our academic collaborators on the East Coast cannot get here. Spence will do the training, organization, and data manipulation for these projects.

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 Sites have remained closed with the exception that V-Bar-V reopened for the last two weeks of October with new COVID mitigation procedures in place. The increase in COVID cases caused the site to be shut down again.

We are always in need of new docents, particularly if you spend all or part of the summer months in the Verde Valley! With the sites being shut down we cannot do training for new docents. I am still taking names of those who are interested so that I can notify them when training becomes available.

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

Archaeological Volunteer Opportunities in the Red Rock District

Although most field activity in the Red Rock Ranger District has either stopped or slowed down substantially, there are still some volunteer activities related to archaeology documentation and studies in the region that would benefit from additional volunteers getting involved.

Three of these activities are currently managed and carried out by the Site Photo Documentation team of the Cultural Resources Committee

Site Photo Documentation

The first activity is site photo documentation to provide photographic coverage for the Forest Service Archaeologists data archive. A large number of known sites still do not have modern, comprehensive photo coverage to document what is at the site, what the current condition is and to establish a base level image data set for review when vandalism and graffiti reports are received (unfortunately far more frequently than is deemed reasonable). Many of these sites are at locations that require moderate to strenuous effort to get to the site. A relatively small number of sites are “easy” access.

New volunteers for this effort would potentially work as new members of the existing site teams or if there are enough people, we could send small groups out to do specific sites.

The work would involve comprehensive photo documentation of sites covering.

A general overview of the site and area

Detailed photos of all

Walls, room floors and ceilings if present

Rock art panels and elements

Graffiti and vandalism

Features, visible artifacts, and anything related

to what is at or impacting the site

The photography follows a set protocol requiring scales, labeling and specific photographic procedures. This is not artistic photography, it is documentation, typically large numbers of photos are required at each site. The photography is typically done with multiple DSLR digital cameras. If necessary, some equipment can be provided.

This is normally a team effort with at least one or two team members reasonably experienced camera operators. Other team members work with mug boards, setting up scales and

north arrows, help with lights and shades if required and help confirm all the protocols are being followed. Team members typically share most if not all roles.

To date, the FOF team has done this type of photo documentation at approximately 600 sites in Districts 1 and 6. Training and reference material would be provided to ensure that the protocols are understood and followed. A GPS and how to use it is required and site locations are confirmed as part of the process. To take part in this work, volunteers would be required to review and sign Forest Service generated Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) and Covid-19 protocol agreements. Regardless of whether sites worked are publicly “known” or not, publication in any form of photos or information regarding the sites is not allowed. The goal is to document sites for further study and protection, not open them up to more people.

Training would also be provided in photo acquisition for 3D photogrammetry at some of the sites. There are currently close to 2000 3D models available for this region at [Sketchfab link](#). As of this month, these models have garnered over 40,000 views on the internet

A high percentage of sites are located in District 1 and are east of I-17 in the Camp Verde, Fossil Springs area. Travel to the sites will be the responsibility of each volunteer. Use of a high clearance 4WD vehicle is recommended for almost all of the sites. Actual field time can be on your own schedule as convenient. Any field-based work will require a minimum team size of two people but for most sites having additional people can be either a benefit or a requirement.

Paleo Indian Rock Art Evaluation

We are currently doing a collaborative research study with several East Coast collaborators who are board members of the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) and have extensive experience at the Gault Clovis Site in Texas.

At this time, we believe that we have evidence of far more Early Archaic and pre-Archaic rock art in the area than previously believed. Peter Pilles is directly involved and is serving as a reviewer and provider of critical information. Currently, this study is centered primarily around the rock art panels at Palatki. There are two vastly different activities related to the study for which we really could use additional help.

We are currently working towards a project status publication for the 2021 “virtual” conference.

Computer based annotation not requiring field work

Computer based interpretation and annotation of scratch lines on rock art panels. This work requires a computer with reasonable RAM and processor speed and a monitor or

screen size allowing detailed work on high resolution photos. The current system requires using Photoshop or a similar program that allows working with “layers”. Realistically, Photoshop is required. If you do not have the software, but are using a Windows based machine, we can probably provide software to you. The photo sets to work on and instructions/training will be provided but each rock art panel area to be worked will require many hours of effort. Extensive experience or ability with computers is not required but the software, a reasonably powerful computer and a good mouse are required.

A new development in this project is that one of our Gault collaborators is a computer systems guru who has developed an on-line app that does allow for line processing without using Photoshop. This system is currently in its final stages of implementation and should be available shortly. Its use would negate the need for photoshop and will make much of the process easier and faster. It will still require an internet connection and reasonably powered computer with a screen size of at least 15 inches but larger would be better.

All time spent on this effort would be on your own schedule, on your computer, as you see fit. It is an iterative process and will likely take 10s of hours or more for most of the areas we are working on. If you have issues seeing detail on a computer screen, scrolling with a mouse (forget about using a touch pad) or are not willing to spend 15-20 hours a month or more, this is probably not for you.

Field evaluation and annotation of rock art panels

This work will be centered on the Grotto, Water Catchment and Roasting Pit Alcoves at Palatki. It will involve on-site

interpretation of super positioning of sets of scratch lines on specific panels. This work cannot commence until the computer annotation for that area is complete. The first panel area was recently finished, and additional areas will hopefully be available to work on soon.

Several of the panel areas will require using a ladder. In all cases, good eyesight, a magnifying glass, a reasonably powerful flashlight or light source with even lighting and extensive note taking will be required. Base level annotated reference photo prints will be provided as will training as needed. Good binoculars that allow close focusing to less than 5-6 feet would be a benefit.

As this work will be on site, we will require at least two people working together at any given time and a probably a minimum of three if a ladder is required. Access to Palatki which currently remains closed will be arranged.

If you would like to consider volunteering for these projects

Please contact Spence Gustav at Spencehg@yahoo.com. Additional information will be provided as necessary and we can discuss moving forward. Any time spent on these projects including travel time, will be reported, and credited to the Forest Service. Volunteers will be required to provide their own transport to field areas and all equipment and supplies other than some specific photo equipment that will be provided if necessary.

Spence Gustav

The slate of the Board Nominees for 2021 was voted on at the November 4 Zoom Board Meeting. Marilyn Painchaud retired from the board but is remaining active as the Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plant committee chair. New and returning members voted onto the Board are **Bob Beltz, Jerry Checchia, Jon Petrescu, Terri Petrescu, Melissa Pontikes, Rich Spinelli, Jerry Walters, and Jennifer Young**. The next Board Meeting will be held on December 9 at 9:00 am via Zoom. Board Officers will be sworn in at that meeting for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Vice President, **Annie Glickstein** sent out the following information regarding annual passes. “We are in the process of setting up a simpler method for Rochelle to access information in order to provide these Passes this time around.

At the beginning of the new fiscal year, eligible members will be sent an email with a link to a form for requesting a pass. Eligibility is a minimum of 16 hours of service in a Federal Fiscal Year for the Red Rock Pass and 250 hours for the Federal Volunteer Pass. After a reasonable time for response, the form results will be sent to Rochelle.”

The Friends are pleased to welcome LJ Varon-Burkhart to the Red Rock Ranger District. She is the new Visitor Information Services Supervisor. LJ will oversee all operations and services provided at the Red Rock Visitor Center, Palatki Heritage Site and V-V Heritage Site; our Interpretation and Education agreement with AHNA and our VIS volunteers with Friends of the Forest.

Jean Ober, Editor, Branching Out

"We interrupt our normal broadcast to bring you this important message!"

We have all heard this kind of announcement at one time or another. Hopefully, it is not some tragic news but will usually get our attention.

In the world of graffiti removal, we've kind of ignored something that is more damaging than any scratching or paint (except at a historical site). **This involves carving on live trees.** In summary, what we have learned from the Forest Service as well as one of our own horticulturists (Pauline Rosen) is:

"Trees don't heal wounds. All of the water and nutrients are transported throughout the tree through its vascular system, which lies just below the bark. Carving starves the tree and if this damage continues around the circumference, called girdling, the tree will die. In addition, these starvings invite insect or provides an entry point for disease pathogens. Years ago, arborists experimented with various salves. In the end result, it did more harm than good."

The best we can hope for is to educate our visitors about the serious damage they can cause. Over the past several weeks, we have taken a number of photos of some tree damage in our forest. Here are just a few:



In setting another record for hours in the field, the team continues to work individually or in select groups. Whether standing in Oak Creek on a warm sunny day removing paint and markers, working both sides of Slide Rock, or re-painting tunnels and bridge abutments in nearly freezing temps, the crew continues to respond whenever needed.

Lastly, we have been fortunate in receiving invitations to visit surrounding Districts to assist and provide training. Recently, several of us traveled to the Mogollon Rim District to remove some paint on a concrete wall.

This committee continues to evolve and develop more efficient methods for keeping our forest in pristine shape.

Continued thanks to our dedicated 70+ members and my co-chair, "Jerry the Younger".

When we must work in groups because of the amount of damage, we continue to practice all necessary COVID restrictions. These are from the Slide Rock area. - whether it is repainting the drainage tunnel just north of the Park or removing the paint and scratches from both sides of Oak Creek, our volunteers continue to respond. **(Adrienne, Rod, JTY, Pete, Deneise, Susan, and Gary** in the tunnel). Too many team members to name on the banks of Slide Rock - this was only a part of the team.

Whether it is 90+ degree weather or near freezing, we never lack for sites to remediate. JTY and Deneise work on a large boulder at Oak Creek and getting cooled off on a warm day. Only a few days ago, Deneise and Adrienne covered over spray paint on the abutments at Pump House wash.

Keep the reports coming!

Jerry Piepiora, Chairman



The majority of our effort still involves individual outings. One of our newer members, **Laura Stewart**, removing scratching at the upper saddle of Cathedral Rock.

Graffiti Removal





Janie Agyagos

Regional Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Janie Agyagos, Red Rock Ranger District Wildlife Biologist, was named Forest Service Regional Wildlife Biologist of the Year! In the words of District Ranger Amy Tinderholt:

"Janie is a naturalist by heart and during her 27-year career on the Red Rock Ranger District she been committed to educating the public through field talks, presentations, and most importantly, her volunteer programs. Janie excels at both sharing her knowledge and leveraging the incredible skills of her volunteers to become leaders in education, protection and rehabilitation of our natural environment. She has created numerous inventorying and monitoring projects that enables our community to become engaged and invested in their public lands. Her contribution to the ecology of the area is grounded in her professional knowledge, but is only possible because of her passion."

Says Janie: "I couldn't do it without my volunteers. My award is their award!"

Thank you, volunteers, for everything you do! Our efforts do not go unnoticed.

Volunteer Opportunity: Biological Agent (Wasp) Identification

Arundo donax, giant reed, is a highly invasive species along our riparian areas. Friends of Verde River/Verde Watershed

Restoration Coalition has been working hard for numerous years to cut and treat stands of *Arundo* with herbicide. But it is spreading quicker than it can be treated and there are populations on private land where landowners have not given permission for FOVR/VWRC to treat. The Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a biological agent, a wasp, to see how effective it is in killing *Arundo*. What is needed is continued monitoring for sign of wasp activity at release sites and investigation of other nearby stands for expansion of the wasp population.

If you are interested in helping out with monitoring, please let Janie (janie.agyagos@usda.gov) or Marilyn Painchaud (wildlife@focsedona.org) know. An online training session will be held in December and recorded for later viewing for those who cannot attend.

Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plant end of year report:

This year's program accomplishments can be found at <https://wildlife.focsedona.org/annual-wildlife-reports>

Marilyn Painchaud

Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants Projects Co-Chair

Janie Agyagos, Forest Service Wildlife Biologist for RRRD arranged for the purchase of a microscope to assist me in the Lichen Survey Project that he is doing with the assistance of **Dr. Frank Bungartz**, lichenologist, staff member of Arizona State University and curator of the Lichen herbaria that is housed at that campus. The lichen samples I have been collecting are now being cataloged and housed at the herbarium and in a national data base (Consortium of North American Lichen Herbaria). Even though I have a microscope already, the one the FS purchased for my use also allows for micro-photography which is helpful in identifying lichen specimen. This is a small demonstration of the phenomenal support we get from the Forest Service in the volunteer work that members of FOF continue to do for the Red Rock Ranger District.

Garry Neil



Trail Maintenance & Construction

In October, the incredible Trail Maintenance & Construction volunteers were finally able to hit the trails with their hardhats, loppers, saws, pickaxes, other ground tools and of course, their masks. After more than 6 months of being idle, the TM&C crew has logged more than 450 hours on 30+ miles of trails, including West Fork, Wilson Mountain, Brins Mesa, Boynton Canyon, AB Young, Old Post and Casner Canyon—just to name a few.

Besides general trail maintenance, the volunteers have cleared 14 downed trees, removed 40 rock cairns, installed a new kiosk, and built an emergency access trail for EMS personnel at Slide Rock (to get from 89A to the creek).

In the coming months, we'll continue doing what we do and keep our fingers crossed that we don't get shut down again! As we head into the holidays, we want to wish all of the FOF family a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and wonderful holiday season.

Melissa Pontikes and Mike Boyd



TM&C'ers **Rod Cashin, Tana Bourdage-Allman, Bill Logan and Wayne Schwetje** with USFS'ers **Noel and Ren** on Brins Mesa



New 6-foot-wide emergency access trail at Slide Rock



Pete Malmgren, David Murrill, and Kurt Starbuck clearing a downed tree on West Fork



Jeff Maust crossing Oak Creek on his way to work on Casner Canyon



New kiosk at bottom on Scorpion Trail

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday December 2 2020 9:00 AM - Via Zoom

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

March 3, 2021

May 5, 2021

September 1, 2021

December 1, 2021

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.

