

From the President

I am thinking about the beginning of the year 2021 when I was tasked with leading the Friends in reengaging our committees that had to stop work in 2020 due to a pandemic. Little did I know getting volunteers back to work would include wildfires, forest shutdown, monsoons, and leadership changes. Whew!

Well, we made it through to the end of the year and I was so excited to get our Annual Meeting back in person. It was amazing seeing the Rector's (members since 1995) there. They sent me a lovely note saying, "It was like coming home". I felt that very same way. Seeing people in person and not on a monitor through zoom was very special. I know we did not have everyone, but we had many there. The Forest Service set up chairs socially distanced; all kinds of precautions were taken. They wanted to appreciate us and their/our other partners, but it wound up that we appreciated them. They were there for us and that means a lot.

Do you remember when we started 2021 that only individual or cohabitating members could go out on Trail Patrol or Graffiti Removal? The Visitor Center, was closed with maps and brochures left for tourists to pick through. Palatki and V-V were closed and the Educational programs ceased, no car-pooling, and no team work. That was difficult. Now, at the end of 2021, we are back in teams up to 15 with a mindful, common-sense approach to preventing the spread of covid. We are active, busy, and engaged again. New people are stepping up and filling in gaps as some long-time members felt it was a good time to step down from chair positions while there was a pause in the work.

As more and more activities get asked of us, we need more and more volunteers to get involved. I would like to encourage our chairpeople to review the list of members on their teams. Look for those new members who may have fallen through the cracks in 2020-2021. Those invisible members can be contacted and engaged in our many activities. Seize

December 2021

the opportunity while we can because we don't know what is in store for 2022.

In conclusion, Thank you all for starting/stopping, staying home/heading out, stopping /starting...and so on. It is my pleasure to volunteer with all of you. Be safe. Be well.

Annie Glickstein, President





The supplies have a new location but the reports have mostly stayed the same, Bell Rock, Cathedral, Devils Bridge, just to name a few.

Most of you know me already but just in case my name is Jerry Checchia and I am the new Chairperson for the graffiti removal committee again. Special thanks to Rod Cashin for taking on the co-chair position and also JTE for all his hard work and dedication over the last 7 years.

respond to a report in a moments notice. Thank you to everyone who came to Jerry (JTE) Piepiora's get together at Vino Di Sedona. It was

This team is nothing short of amazing and will

a great turn out, and he really appreciated it.

Keep the reports coming and stay safe out there.

Jerry Checchia (JTY)



Devil's Bridge Clean-up crew Rod Cashin, Jean Ober, JTY, Bill Logan, Mike Ober, Paula Potter, JTE



Thank You Jerry Piepiora

The Graffiti Crew in action



Mike Boyd, Bill Logan



Jerry Checchia



Paula Potter

🚄 Statistical Summary

As reported at the Annual Meeting in November, the Friends' hours were severely impacted by the restrictions and closures caused by the pandemic and wildland fires. Somehow, the Graffiti Removal team managed to set a new record! The pandemic and closures continued to disproportionately affect our committees; some were shut down entirely at times,

while others were able to proceed due to the individual nature of the work.

Here's the recap of the hours by committee for FY21, compared to last year's totals:

Committee	FY21 Hours	FY20 Hours	Change in Hours	Percent Change	FY21 % of Total
Air Quality	72	239	-167	-69.9%	0.3%
Cultural Resources	4,776	5,691	-914	-16.1%	19.9%
Graffiti Removal (new record)	1,884	1,839	+45	+2.5%	7.9%
Interpretive Pgm	68	350	-282	-80.6%	0.3%
River Rangers	75	229	-154	-67.2%	0.3%
Special Projects*	673	262	+411	+157.0%	2.8%
Trail Maint&Const	1,446	1,767	-321	-18.2%	6.0%
Trail Patrol	10,555	11,534	-979	-8.5%	44.0%
VIS	512	2,006	-1,493	-74.5%	2.1%
Water Sampling	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Wildlife/Fish/Plants	2,313	4,309	-1,995	-46.3%	9.6%
Admin/Meetings	1,616	1,663	-48	-29%	6.7%
Total	23,991	29,888	-5,897	-19.7%	100.0%

500 Club (Members with 500+ hours in FY21)

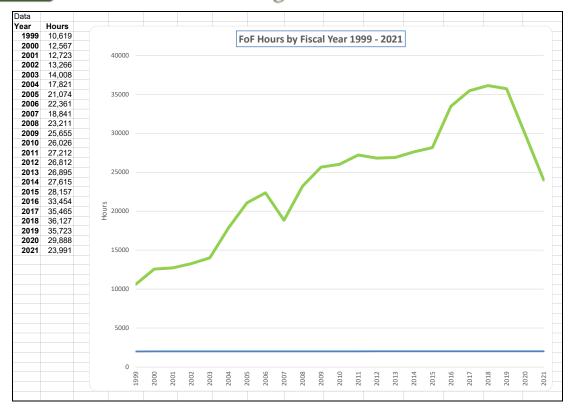
Gustav, Spence	1,539.50		
Harris, Michael	1,113.00		
Neil, Garry	1,088.00		
Glickstein, Anne	902.28		
Walters, Jerry	758.05		
Atkinson, Rhett	689.75		
Walters, Janet	645.30		
Newth, Scott	597.60		
Haizmann, Bob	583.41		
McClimans, Don	575.50		
Evans, Dale	559.50		

Overall, a total of 221 members (36% of membership) volunteered their time during this fiscal year (October 2020 thru September 2021), with an average of 108.55 hours per active member. We had eleven members who each contributed in excess of 500 hours, including three who had over 1,000 hours! See Page 4 for Fiscal years 1999-2021 graphs. 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.

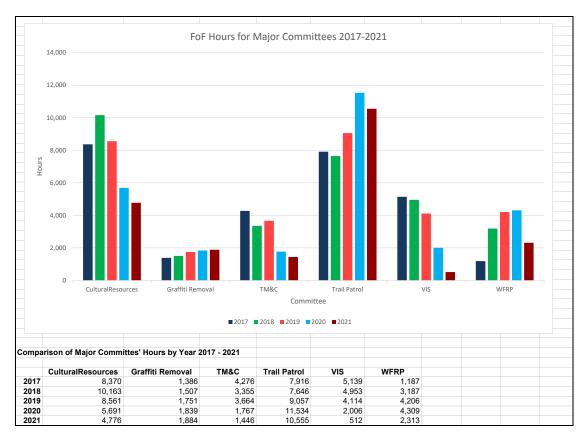
Peg Kern

= Statistical Summary



FOF Vol Hrs Comparison by Year_2021_Final.xlsx Chart_byYear

11/5/2021



FOF Vol Hrs Comparison by Year_2021_Final.xlsx Chart_byYrProj

11/6/2021



Upcoming Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants Projects

Many volunteer opportunities arrive with cooler autumn weather!

Agave Training: four domesticate species were recently harvested from various locations throughout the district and planted around the ranger station. Training will be scheduled for those interested in our Verde Valley agave inventory and for our visitor center gardeners.

Fence Inspection: as a result of a lawsuit over keeping cattle out of riparian areas, a lot of range fencing will need to be inspected and documented.

Fence Work: Clean up needed at the Blue Grade Corral accessed from Stoneman Lake Road in December. Several fences surrounding springs off Fossil Creek Road need repair.

A Treasure Hunt! Pre-pandemic, agaves near Page Springs Road and Hidden Valley Road were tagged for monitoring of illegal harvesting. These "hidden" tags need to be located.

If you are interested in any of these projects or training sessions, contact Marilyn Painchaud at wildlife@fofsedona.org

Marilyn Painchaud



厍 Membershîp

In spite of the limited amount of activity we've been able to undertake in calendar year 2021, our membership as of November 1, 2021 is 615 exactly the same at it was at the end of last year. The 60 members who have not renewed in 2021 have been replaced by 60 new members. And we still have 2 months remaining in 2021 to surpass last year!

36% of our current members joined on an annual basis while 64% have opted for lifetime membership. This indicates the long-term commitment that so many of our members have to serving the Red Rock District.

Since our last newsletter, the following new members have joined Friends of the Forest: Susan Birdsey, Robin Fiske, Grey Pribyl and Carrie Winden.

While we'll begin planning for a New Member Event to be scheduled for early 2022, the status of the COVID epidemic will determine if this event can take place. Stay tuned for more information.

Craig Swanson

FOF Membership Data as of 11/1/2021 (using calendar years)							
		Annual	Life	Total			
2021	New Members Added in 2021 thru 11/1/21	46	14	60			
	Past Members not Renewing for 2021	60					
	Current Membership as of 11/1/21	224	391	615			
2020	New Members Added in 2020	52	27	79			
	Past Members not Renewing for 2020	47		47			
	Current Membership at end of 2020			615			

To end this Trail Patrol year, I want to start by thanking Terri and Jon Petrescu for their years their support in helping me of service and assume responsibility as TP Chair. I also want to thank Terri for all the fresh vegetables from their garden she offered each time I found a reason to go over to their home for "in person" help. Annie, Jean, Bob and others have also been a big help in trying to get my arms around the position. The trails - Chimney and Thunder Mtn. to David Miller and Casner Canyon - I have down. But finding my way around NEON, FoF and the FS - to us a Navy See Bees quote regarding the impossible - may take a little longer.

2021 was as steady as she goes year – 145 Trail Patrol members, 100 actively hiking, 3,842 patrols and 10,587 hours logged. TP covered 181 unique trails encountering 15,000+ hikers, 12,000+ bikers, generating 550 reports and picking up 573 pounds of litter. All statistics are virtually unchanged from 2020.

The new year sees Trail Patrol working with **Brady Vandragt** and the Forest Service to

update documents/guidance for our volunteer activities, Trail Patrol will be assuming responsibility for the Trail Ambassador program and initiating an educational element to some of the monthly TP hikes (FoF member Barry Mallis with be doing a Geology talk on our December hike, Jerry/Ron and Mike/Melissa discussing Graffiti/TM in January or February, Kevin Harding with FoF will be sharing his knowledge of birds this spring with plans for wildflower and cacti hikes also. I am looking forward to a full and active 2022.

In closing, Trail Patrol would like to leave you all with words from Les Blacklock, a wildlife photographer and naturalist from Minnesota:

"If you want to get somewhere, do not follow a wildlife trail. Moose trails run into bear trails, bear trails run into deer trails, deer trails into fox trails, fox trails into rabbit trails, rabbit trails into squirrel trails, and they go up a tree and into a hole."

Dale Evans

Cultural Resources

All committee activities shutdown by COVID have resumed and are in full swing.

Site Recording Project

This project is on hold for the foreseeable future. No activities are planned.

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

The only ongoing work has been the "Fine Incised Petroglyph Study" (formerly known as the "Paleo Scratch Study"). A presentation was made at the June ARARA (American Rock Art Recording Assoc.) virtual convention and preliminary report submitted to be published in their journal. **Computer based help is still needed in support of this effort.** Spence will provide training via Zoom.

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

Docent Program

Both V-Bar-V and Palatki are reopened. We are once again actively engaged at these sites. Join me in welcoming new FoF members and new docents **Cyn & Peter Belowski and Don Worfolk.** Thanks to Spence Gustav and Wayne Swart for conducting the Palatki and Honanki training.

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. Training is scheduled whenever we have members interested in the program.

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@fofsedona.org) for more information.

Jerry Walters (928) 284-1339



Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

There is ongoing work for the "Fine Incised Petroglyph Study" (formerly known and "Paleo Scratch Study"). The scaffold equipment lent to us by an FOF and Photo Team member has been removed from Palatki via the significant effort and support of Trail Maintenance Committee members. Ground based photo acquisition and interpretation will continue. A presentation was made at the June ARARA (American Rock Art Research Association) virtual conference. A preliminary project report was submitted for publication and is currently be reviewed by the editors. Computer based interpretation continues and additional help is still needed for this part of the project. Spence will provide training via Zoom. If you are interested in helping with this project or would like more information contact him at Spencehg@yahoo.com.

The removal of the now deceased trees in front of the cliff face at V bar V (due to safety concerns) has created an opportunity to more easily establish a new baseline of rock face conditions at the site. New detailed baseline photos plus several macro level 3D models will be acquired in the near future to be utilized in collaboration with a project being carried out by Prof. Frank Bungartz (Lichenology, Arizona State University, Tempe) and one of his PhD students.

Due to ongoing concern and discussion of road conditions in the Palatki and Honanki areas, the "Dust Study" is once again on everyone's radar and updated data acquisition and interpretation is scheduled.

Special Projects

Normally not a very active committee, recent projects have provided some opportunities for short term projects or projects not yet ready for long term Committee status.

Adopt-a-Plot at the Ranger Station and Visitor Center is ongoing with dedicated efforts by a number of volunteers.

Trail Ambassador program is being pulled into trail patrol chaired by Dale Evans.

Many thanks for the very short term but very valuable efforts by the painters and seamstresses who put in a great effort to refurbish buildings at V bar V and the Beaver Creek Work Center. A short term "translation" project in support of a collaborating agency is much appreciated.

Several volunteers are working away at helping the Forest Service Volunteer Coordinator get things off the ground and projects organized. Thanks to the drivers who, on incredibly short notice, transported a number of Yavapai students down to Fossil Creek for a project. Thanks to several volunteers working away on downloaded weather data from the Palatki weather station and recording thermometers in place at several Palatki alcoves.

Spence Gustav

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Graffiti Removal:

Rod Cashin
Bill Cobb
Gary Cooper
Bob Haizmann
Vicki Hill
Bill Logan
Pete Malmgren
Deneise Piepiora
Pat Quinn
Laura Stewart
John Crowley
David Terrell

Graffiti Removal Team



Vicki Hill, Rod Cashin, John Crowley, Jerry Piepiora, Jerry Checchia, Bill Logan

Trail Patrol:

Margie Terrell

Laura Zirino

Janet & Jerry Walters by far did the most number of hikes, 294 & 304 respectively. Next closest is 218. Rhett Atkinson hiked the most number of trails at 107 in 134 hikes. Dale Evans hiked 101 in 129 hikes. The next closest for number of trails is 69.

Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants:

Dale Evans Sharon Evans Dave Kennedy Judy Kennedy Al Milavec Pam Milavec

Spence's Photography Team:

Jon Petrescu Ed Hodges Rob Elliott David Irvine Rose O'Donnel

Trail Patrol



Dale Evans, Jerry Walters

Wildlife, Fish, & Rare Plants



Dale Evans, Marilyn Painchaud

Trail Maintenance & Construction:

David Murrell Mia Tranz Pat Quinn Bob Bare Clay Dunsmore

Certificates of appreciation presented by the committee chairs to outstanding team members

New Volunteer of the Year 2021



Rod Cashin

Rod joined in 2019 so it may seem strange to honor him in 2021 as a new volunteer. Since he joined, he has managed to maintain hours through a pandemic, wildfires, forest shutdown, monsoon flooding, and government shutdown. Rod has been quietly removing graffiti, repairing trails, pulling weeds, hiking and reporting obstacles. Rod is an all around, helpful and thoughtful person who is truly an asset to the Friends of the Forest and the Forest Service. Well done.

Volunteer of the Year 2020-21



Dale Evans

Dale's experience with Mount Baker Forest Service as a Mountain Steward (a cross between trail patrol and trail ambassador) has come in very handy for the Friends of the Forest. Dale has been a true ambassador showing his ability to help visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience in our Red Rocks. He has been active in Trail Patrol, Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants, and has added quality to our Trail Ambassador program.

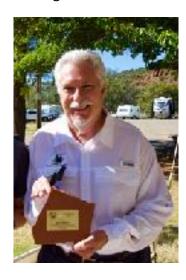
Stealth Volunteer of the Year



He who shall be unnamed

This person may be only one person, but he is one person who makes a difference. On any given day, this person is out there and we just don't see him. He's pulling out Johnson grass, fixing fences, clearing drains, gardening, doing trail maintenance, reporting on wildlife or rare plants. He just wants to volunteer and the last thing he wants is recognition. The best day for him is to be busy with meaningful work. So let's keep him busy to keep him happy.

Distinguished Volunteer



Jerry Piepiora

Jerry or JTE is a true leader and has brought the Graffiti Removal Team to a superior level. Jerry has shown the value of his team time and again. Jerry writes articles and speaks with everyone he meets regarding the professional response by his team. Because of his knack for talking, he has reports of graffiti coming in from all over. This team has grown from a few people with sandpaper and metal brush to over 70

volunteers with an arsenal of tools, including elephant snot to preserve and remove the unwanted graffiti. Your team responds to graffiti reports with urgency and expertise because that is the way you have led them. Thank you Jerry

For many years you have consistently given your time and energy to the Friends of the Forest in many ways.

New Volunteers of the Year 2021

Margie and David Terrell

Margie and David have helped out with removing graffiti during unprecedented times. Getting together in teams has not been that easy and yet they volunteer and show up and work in safe ways and get the job done. Thank you.

President's Award



Jerry Checchia

Heart of the Friends Award

Mike Boyd

Mike freely gives his time to FOF because he is that real human being who cares and wants to make a difference. Mike does whatever it takes to support the Forest Service and the volunteers who are on his TM&C team. Mike spearheaded a small team of TM&C members and constructed a fire access trail with a locked gate at the top for the Firefighters who have to respond daily to rescue calls at Slide Rock. Not only that, Mike is generous, kind, supportive, and extremely knowledgeable about all the tools we use and he has to store and care for regularly. Mike truly shows what it means to have a heart and be a friend. Thank you Mike



Old FRIENDS visit



Check out the pics



Forest Service Host the Party



Visiting with new FRIENDS

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Board Meeting

November 6, 2021



Jim Manning, Darl and Gene Rector



Board Meeting



Board Meeting



Yummy



Lots of catching up

Volunteer Opportunities

- Water Quality We wish to welcome Cynthia Malowitz as the new chair of Water Quality. Cynthia will be working with the new hydrologist to develop a working plan for the coming year and will be looking for new volunteers to help. We also want to extend a Hugh Thank You to Al Cornell for his dedicated years of service to lead this fine group of volunteers. Throughout his chairmanship the team never missed a week of water quality checks. An outstanding record. Contact Annie for more information at president@fofsedona.org
- Air Quality this has been on pause because of the Backbone fire. Once we are allowed back in to the area, we will need new members. Defensive Drivers classes will be scheduled soon to allow for more volunteer drivers for this and the River Rangers. For more information contact Brian at ikba1@fofsedona.org
- River Rangers Jerry Piepiora is picking up the reins for this group and would like to have volunteers drivers. He will be working with the Forest Service to get more government licensed drivers to do the driving that is needed in support of the Forest Service River Rangers who navigate the rivers. A Big Thank You to Mike Ober who has lead this great group. Watch for more information or contact Jerry at riverrangers@fofsedona.org if you can help.
- Trail Maintenance & Construction we may have more trail maintenance opportunities coming up and could use a few more good men/women. We need all types of workers. It is not just brute force non-stop. Some work is brushing (using loppers to clear catclaw from the side of the trail), drains (just using a rogue hoe to help make the water drain from the trail more appropriately). Of course there is some major rock work that goes on, but that's a lot of fun too. There is going to be some obliteration of social trails too. For more information contact Mike Boyd at tmc@fofsedona.org.

- Trail Patrol all trail patrol members should be watching their emails for group hikes coming up. Learn about the geology, the wildflowers, even how to use our apps. Volunteers for Trail Patrol really let our other teams know what is wrong on the trail (graffiti needs to be removed, a downed tree across the trail, or a missing sign). Trail Patrol is the eyes and ears of the Forest Service. Members can report about illegal dumping or abandoned campsites. If you have questions or want to join these hikes, contact committee chair, Dale Evans at trailpatrol@fofsedona.org.
- Admin- I need someone who wants to take on the new process of managing the Red Rock Pass requests and getting data to Rochelle to fill the requests. That means working with a link that members can go to and request it, validating that they have at least 16 volunteer hours, and getting info if they want it mailed or will pick it up at the admin building. Contact Annie at president@fofsedona.org
- Photography Team still needs more computer workers for lines. If I try to tell you more than that it will be very long and detailed. Just, do you like being on your computer and can you pay attention to detail? Contact Spence at Spencehg@yahoo.com.
- NEON if you would like to be on a team that researches other software for managing a volunteer organization and would be willing to take on doing a transition of say about 600 accounts, then let me know. That is a huge undertaking and not for the faint of heart. Contact **Annie** at president@fofsedona.org
- Webmaster Tech Team member to maintain the Friends of the Forest website and manage our Google for Nonprofits user accounts and data repositories. Training provided.

See you on the trails. Annie Glickstein

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 @ 9:00 AM Zoom Meeting FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Member meeting All Members welcome

Future Board of Directors Meetings:

March 2, 2022

May 4, 2022

September 7, 2022

Annual Meeting - November (to be announced)

December 7, 2022

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 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.