

December 2023

Branching Out

Sedona Friends of the Forest

From the President

Hello Everyone,

Warning, this article will contain many "Thank You's" so please bear with me.

First off, I would like to thank **Craig & Karen** for all their efforts with the new member event, it was a huge turn out and resulted in many new members. Shout out to Craig and KSB for the use of their spacious building. Also thank you to Adrienne & anyone that brought something yummy to share. Let me not forget all the committee chairs that showed up well armed with information. **You All Rock!!!**

Hopefully you're still with me...

Next I'd like to thank Amy, L.J., Janie and the entire Red Rock crew that helped out with the annual picnic. What a great day even with all the smoke, we even got to witness a helicopter landing as it refueled to help out on the Maid Fire. Tip your cowboy hats to Bill & Bob and the entire Dutch oven crew for the yummy Wild Bill's Chili. One more thank you to M Diamond Ranch/Legacy Prime Farms for donating the beef for the chili.

I have learned a great deal over the past year, and appreciate all the advice and help I receive from other board members and past officers. Enjoy this wonderful hiking weather and be safe out there on & off the trails.

Happy hiking,
Jerry & Chase



SMOKEY Thank You

For the 2023 fiscal year, volunteers provided 32,593 hours, the equivalent of almost 1 million dollars of free labor to the Forest Service.

Michael Harris and Don McClimans contributed over 1,000 hours each.

Seven individuals were in the over 500 hours club **Annie Glickstein, Spence Gustav, Dale Evans, Garry Neil, Bea Logan, Alan Glickstein and Jerry Walters.**

Volunteer

How to Join a Project (Committee)

From time-to-time new projects (committees) are formed. We have had at least two in the last year. And your interests may change over time. We thought it would be helpful to review how to sign up for a new project in the system (NEON) and what happens when you do that.

From the Member Portal, click the first item "VOLUNTEER".

At the bottom of the resulting page, under "Volunteer Links" clicking the first item "View My Projects" will bring up a screen that shows your currently assigned projects. At the top of that screen, clicking on "PROJECT LIST" will bring up a page with the projects (along with a description) that you can apply to join. You can also get to that screen directly by clicking "Volunteer for a Project" under "Volunteer Links".

Select any of the ones you are interested in and click "APPLY" at the bottom of the page.

Once you apply to join a project, you will be listed as a pending member in NEON and an email will be sent to the chair of that committee by the system. You can expect to be contacted by the chair soon after to discuss any training requirements and to ensure that the applicable JHA(s) have been signed. It would be best to take care of signing JHAs before applying. Below is a current list of Projects and Chairs along with a contact email. You can also feel free to reach out directly with any questions:

Cultural Resources (Docents) - Jerry Walters
(docents@fosedona.org)

Graffiti Removal - Jim White
(Graffiti@fosedona.org)

Motorized Environmental Restoration - Mike Boyd
(mer@fosedona.org)

Photo Documentation - Spence Gustav
(spencehg@yahoo.com)

River Rangers - Jerry Piepiora
(riverrangers@fosedona.org)

Trail Maintenance & Construction - Glenn Kingsbury & Pat Quinn (tmc@fosedona.org)

Trail Patrol - Bob and Carol Does
(trailpatrol@fosedona.org)

Trailhead Beautification - Dale Smrz
(thb@fosedona.org)

Visitor Information Services (VIS) - Manny Romero
(vis@fosedona.org)

Water & Air Quality Monitoring - Cynthia Malowitz & John Zieran
(water-air-quality@fosedona.org)

Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plant Projects - Annie Glickstein
(wildlife@fosedona.org)

We also have seasonal and special projects during the year.

For example, Preventive Search & Rescue (PSAR, formerly known as Trail Ambassador). Dale Evans is your contact for this
(psar@fosedona.org).

You will see email announcements for other volunteering opportunities as they arise.

Alan Glickstein

The last two years have gone fast since I took over Trail Patrol from **Jon and Terri Petruscu**. During that time we have added educational hikes on geology, birds and wildflowers – thank-you **Bob Mallis, Kevin Harding and Bob Beltz** – seminars on lizards and amphibians, scat and track and on FoF reporting tools – thank-you **Martin Feder, Al Cornell and Bob Haizmann**. We've shared photos and information and had (hopefully) fun and challenging quizzes. AND, we have added PSAR under the TP umbrella. The latter, even though it is only Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends, has been all consuming during the summer so I am pleased to announce **Carol and Bob Dores**, who have been active TP members, have assumed co-chairs of Trail Patrol. I have no doubt they will bring new ideas and energy to our largest committee. AND, I am looking forward to more time on the trails. Thank-you all and be looking to hear from me about Preventative Search and Rescue efforts this spring. See ya on the trails, Dale

PSAR (Preventative Search and Rescue)

Friends of the Forest has been manning an information table at Bruce Brockett/Bell TH for six years and at Dry Creek Vista/Devils Bridge for the last two (Saturday/Sunday/Holidays from Memorial to Labor Day from 10AM to 2PM). September 4, 2023 was the last day of our 2023 effort to attempt to decrease the need for first responder calls to these locations. Thirty-one people volunteered in total contributing 874 hours - approx. 10% more than last year. Our efforts focus on making sure individuals are aware of the undertaking

they are attempting - trail conditions, length, weather (HEAT) and what they need to be prepared. Those less than adequately prepared, we encourage to get more water, chose a more appropriate hike or come back at a more appropriate time. This year, we talked with 10,263 hikers - counting only those going in - where we could make an impact on their decision. We "turned" 1,301 (12.68% or 1 in 8) typically to get more water or to a more appropriate trail. We also provided aid to 148 combined people and dogs - chairs/shade/cooling clothes.... and on several occasions placed 911 calls for emergency situations.

Due to the extreme heat this summer we did cancel several shifts and then opted, when the forecast was calling for 104 or greater, to moving our presence to 8AM to Noon on those days (not wanting to add our volunteers to the first responder calls). We plan to continue with the current Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 10AM to 2PM (8AM to noon on excessive heat warning days) schedule at these two locations in 2024.

Special thanks to ATV Sedona, Barlow Jeep and Walmart/Cottonwood for supporting our efforts with water and ice (including noon refills at Dry Creek Vista) and Propel Electrolytes. All were key in our efforts to support local first responders and the hiking community.

We will be recruiting and training Preventative Search and Rescue volunteers next spring. Watch for our appeal and please consider joining this important and rewarding effort.

Dale Evans



Trail Maintenance & Construction

The Trail Sign crew has been busy with sign requests from the Forest Service as well as repairing or replacing missing or damaged signs throughout the Red Rock Ranger District.

The crew installed new posts and signs at the Jim Thompson parking lot as well as a new cairn basket, post and signs at the Cibola Pass, Jordan and Brins Mesa Trail junction.

There was extensive damage caused by bears in the Secret Mountain Wilderness area and

specifically Bear Sign and Dry Creek trails. New signs were created and the damaged signs were replaced.

Kudos to Ernie DiMillo and Jerry Piepiora for extensive work routing out the letters and arrows in the redwood signs which are then sanded, stained and installed by Rod Cashin or the Forest Service seasonal crew.

Rod Cashin

Jeff, Ernie, & Rich at JT Trailhead



New sign at JT trailhead



Bear damage to Bear Sign Trail sign



New Bear Sign Trail sign



TM&C closing social trail on Rabbit Ear



Our fall season is in full swing and we are either putting in a crew of Forest Service River Rangers on the Verde River or taking some out every several days. We expect to stay busy at least through February. My only surprise is that in spite of some rough roads, we are still able to get volunteers. Must be the additional hazardous duty pay.

Lucky for all the drivers, our team continues to grow. We now have 18 members on the roster. We are pleased to welcome Deneise Piepiora, Cheri Breeman, Terry Martin, and Derek Wlodarski. Also, Rhett Atkinson, who is not new to the team, but in previous years has not been available to help. This year he has been a regular and has contributed a substantial number of hours. We also welcomed Rebecca Miller, our new Forest Service River coordinator. She is keeping us busy!

Presently, the team has contributed nearly 200 hours and we're only halfway through the season.

A highlight of each season is our picnic with the Forest Service. This year, 14 were in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and offer some excellent suggestions.

There are a couple of senior members who are close to retirement from driving. (not mentioning any names, Mike and Frank), so we are always looking for new drivers. If any FOF members would like to join, please contact me at riverrangers@fosedona.org or my cell (443) 324-1360. We will assist you in getting or renewing your government drivers license and possibly a trailer certificate.

Jerry Piepiora



Put-In Beasley Flat



This is the “picnic” we normally have at the Beaver Creek workstation, but because of the possibility of rain, we moved it to the RRRD conference room.

Forest Service - **Francisca Adrian, Rebecca Miller, Jesse Verellen, and Bran McCormick, Nate Hagan**

River Rangers - **Rhett Atkinson, Pat Quinn,, Dave Kennedy, Marilyn and Brian Painchaud,, Bob Beltz, Les and Barb Heffner.**



Rangers headed out on another Verde River run

The Graffiti Removal Committee has been busy. We had a number of successful outings, some beyond the Coconino National Forest.

We made another trip to Slide Rock State Park. Literally hundreds of scratches were removed during our outing. We also had an outing to Devil's Bridge. Not only a popular hiking destination, but a popular spot to scratch your name, etc. So lots of scratches to clean off. Our travels included a trip down to Fossil Creek to remove some paint on the Bob Bear trail.

Just a gentle reminder to everyone. It is crucial that you only remediate graffiti which has an **"ASSIGNED"** status. We have strict protocols to only work on certain trails /areas. The graffiti cell phone app will only give **"ASSIGNED"** to graffiti far away from any archeologically sensitive sites. Never assume

it is safe to work on graffiti until the status is set to **"ASSIGNED"**. We need to continue to steer clear of sensitive sites.

📷📷 Graffiti App Tip: When taking a photo please be sure to include something in the photo to give it a sense of scale. Anything will do; a hat, hiking pole, etc. I know not all of us carry rulers in our packs.

A big thanks to the committee members that were able to attend our outings. Also, thanks to committee members that continue to work independently on reporting and remediating graffiti. We now have 111 members! And for our fiscal year we completed 342 graffiti reports, usually within 5 days of being reported. Way to go team.J

Everyone be careful out there and enjoy our forest.

Jim White

Our Committee in Action

Devil's Bridge



West Fork Trail



Prescott NF - Camp Verde



Bob Bear Trail



Slide Rock State Park



Cathedral Rock



How to Request a Red Rock Pass:

If your current pass will expire at the end of the month, and have over 16 volunteer hours, send an email to annie.glickstein@fosedona.org with your information and request for Pass.

Verify your mailing address, phone number in Neon. Annie will process your request and pass will be mailed to you with an acknowledgment form, sign form and return to Forest Service.

Any questions? Contact Annie

Interpretive Programs

Hello Friends!

First off, I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and healthy holiday season, hopefully together with people you love (or just like 😊). May the new year treat you well...

We have started our educational walks/hikes again in October. Locals and visitors alike are enjoying the monthly geology hikes (hike leader Barry Mallis) and twice-monthly bird watching walks (hike leader Kevin Harding). Both gentlemen are FoF volunteers and naturalists. More information on these can be found on our website under EVENTS.

www.FriendsoftheForestSedona.org,

We can always offer more educational activities through our organization. If any FoF member reading this article would like to volunteer their knowledge and offer any walks/hikes or a classroom meeting, please contact me. We are looking for great speakers, who could present classroom talks, do demonstrations, or lead guided walks/hikes throughout the year for both adults and youth to learn about the heritage, geology, plants and animals of this very special place, the

Red Rock District **OR** any other topic that will educate and improve our lives, hobbies or support nature/the way we live. (Actively looking for a photography hike/class room presentation(s) on how to take the best photos with a camera/cell phone.) This could be done at any time of the year. Classroom meetings would be held at the Ranger Station Visitor Center on SR 179 (either in the meeting room or outside on the patio, but Zoom meetings are also available, if needed). Walks/hikes should be held on our RRRD trails, either for beginners or more advanced hikers.

Even if you are a part-time Arizonan, please contact me, and I will present your topic to the ranger station staff for permission to present as these educational get-togethers will be sponsored by our Red Rock Ranger District.

"May the Forest be with you".

Bea Logan
Chair, Interpretive & Educational Programs
Committee
interpretive@fosedona.org

Bird Hike



Bea Logan

Geology Hike



Docent Program

THANK YOU!!!

There has been a tidal wave of new docents since the September newsletter! I have had the pleasure of training 11 new docents (new FoF members as well as established members). Several have already started volunteer activities. Please join me in welcoming: CJ Johnson, Audie Brinkmeier, Camille LeFevre, Jenise DeGraw, Julie Martin, Matthew Cable, Susan Cable, Jessica Baldischwiler, Martha Bowman, Gail Hart, and Dennis Perchak! Special thanks to **Wayne Swart**, and **Spence Gustav** for conducting the Palatki portion of the training.

We are always in need of new docents, particularly if you spend all or part of the summer months in the Verde Valley! Seasonal residents are wholly welcomed (and needed) too. 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@fosedona.org) for more information. Our FAQ is also available online: <https://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org/activities/cultural-resources-protection/> (See the "Click HERE for answers to common..." paragraph)

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

Photo Team is slowly getting back to being busy.

The photogrammetry team has completed several more projects for the Flagstaff District of CNF. The models have been posted on

Sketchfab. They have even been featured by the Coconino National Forest on their Facebook page!

The lichen impact study on petroglyphs at V-bar-V with ASU lichenologist Prof. Frank Bungartz will resume with a new round of detailed photography at the site.

The Dust Study at Palatki and Honanki has reached a new phase and new methodology is now being initiated.

Please contact **Spence Gustav** at spencehg@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like to join his team.

March 2024 – Heritage Days on Beaver Creek

The "annual" Archaeology Discovery Days (aka V-Bar-V Days) event held in March of each year has been on hiatus for several years due to COVID, is being resurrected on March 16th & 17th of 2024. The event is being planned and sponsored as a joint effort between Verde Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (VVC/AAS), Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC), and the Forest Service. The name of the event is being changed to coincide with renaming the site to "Crane Petroglyph Heritage Site" as first noted in the Sept. 2022 Branching Out.

We will be sending out an email in early February to all FoF members soliciting volunteers for various activities in support of the event.

Jerry Walters (928) 284-1339 / docents@fosedona.org

Jerry Walters

Air & Water Quality

Thanks to our awesome volunteers, we had an amazing and productive year. The Water Monitoring team continues to collect and process samples from Fossil Creek monthly throughout the year. We picked up several new sites in Oak Creek Canyon to monitor from May through October. Even though some sites were a little difficult to access, we accomplished our goals. In addition to E. coli samples, we collected MST (microbial source tracing) samples for a DNA project that the USFS and AZDEQ are working on in conjunction with the NAU science department in Flagstaff. The DNA analysis determines the main sources of E. coli contamination.

Our Air Quality team continues to change filters at Ike's Backbone weekly. Getting through the summer was tough, since so many of our volunteers were out of town. Fortunately, we never missed a filter change, due to our loyal volunteers - **Jerry Checchia**,

Pat Quinn and Brian Painchaud. The USFS also bought us a brand new Jeep Rubicon.

I would like to recognize some more of our outstanding members who've really stepped up to the plate to help out this year. **John Zieran** has agreed to become the co-chair for the water monitoring program. John is a photographer and took a picture of the big waterfall from a cave in Fossil Creek (below). He is also helping out with our air quality team. **Dr. Karen Yook** is a new volunteer and she recently moved to Santa Fe. Even though she lives 5 hours away, she is driving in monthly to help with both the water monitoring and air quality teams. Now THAT'S dedication!

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2024! Happy Holidays!

Cynthia Malowitz



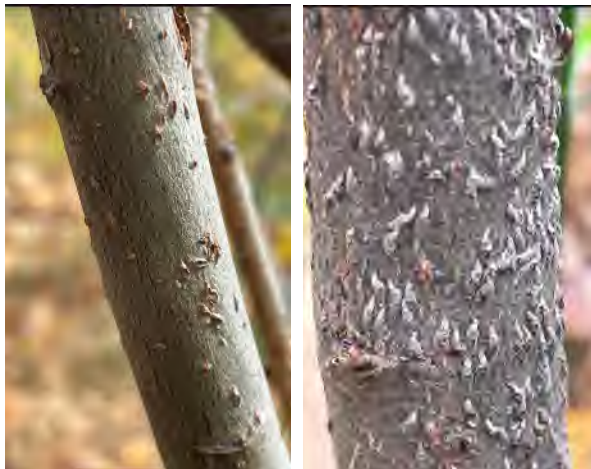
 Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants

WILDLIFE/FISH/RARE PLANTS? - Things have been getting done, no surprise there. Maybe not all completely related to wildlife, fish, and/or rare plants, but that's okay. All of our Friends of the Forest activities revolve around building a partnership with the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. Our volunteers really do help fill the gap between the Forest Service's needs and resources.

Let me give you an example, the stalls at the Beaver Creek Work Center that house the FS horses were repaired by three of our volunteers. Not only that, but other volunteers took the time to get trained in horse care and they are caring for those horses to give the FS Range person, **Kathy Sevy**, a break. Kathy would have to take care of them every day, but with the support of our volunteers, she can actually have some time off from work.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - Janie (FS Biologist) has been hosting a "Weekly Bio Orientation/Training" each Monday morning from 10am-11am. Each week she goes through the various Verde Valley-specific PowerPoints relating to flora and fauna. It's a great way to learn – if you have the opportunity, go ahead and jump on the call.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT (BOLO) - **Andy Pigg**, the FS Botanist, found OSS (Oystershell Scale), which is an invasive sapsucking insect. He was at the Cave Springs Campground recently in Oak Creek Canyon, and saw it on some red willows. There wasn't any obvious mortality in the area from OSS, but did report it. After finding a few infested stems, he checked out nearby trees within 100 or so feet. The possibly infected willows are just up creek of some Alders that may have been a part of some pathogen work. So, please, if you are out and about and spot OSS, or even what you think is OSS, report any suspect sightings to wildlife@fosedona.org so we can get that information tracked and passed along to the right FS peeps. Here are some pics:



FENCING – Janie has a bunch of dates slated for all kinds of fence work. No experience is necessary as the hands-on training is excellent. Janie has a great way of breaking the jobs down into small, specific tasks. She brings all the equipment and gives each person something to do. Veteran volunteers who have done all kinds of fence work are always around to support the newer volunteers who may be hesitant to sign up fearing that they don't know anything.

Different types of fence work include: Fence modification – for pronghorns – we remove the bottom strand of barbed wire from specific locations and replace it with smooth wire at a specific height so the pronghorn can slide under (they don't jump the fence, they slide under).

Fence removal – some of that barbed wire fence is old and has no value sitting out on the forest in old rangeland areas. We roll it up and carry it out.

Fence repair – using “stays” to make repairs or replacing old hinges or latches...you get the idea – we repair.

Here are the next dates that are scheduled. If you can help out, please watch for the signups and join us.

Dec 14	Jan 11	Feb 7	March 6	April 11	May 9
Dec 20	Jan 25	Feb 22	March 21	April 24	May 21

RIPARIAN, ENCLOSURE, & WATER GAP MONITORING –

Quarterly (!) monitoring required as a result of a settlement agreement from a lawsuit involving livestock grazing along the Verde River and associated riparian habitat. We need volunteers to visit specific riparian stretches to look for and document livestock access into and along the Verde riparian. You will note your observations on provided field forms. Field forms and pictures are then returned to Annie, Janie, and Kathy. Thanks to those who have helped out in the past. If you can still go out and have your favorite locations to monitor, please let me know. If you are new to volunteering and find this interesting, please let me know and I will help you get involved.

A new year will be starting before you know it and this does need to be done quarterly. The areas are:

Red Tank Draw Above 618 Bridge - Blue Grade Road (FR689) to where 9020B crosses

Red Tank Draw Below 618 Bridge - From the bridge downstream less than 1 mile

Wet Beaver Creek Upstream of Ranger Station - Hike the Bell Trail and pop into WBC as often as feasible to have a look see.

Wet Beaver Creek from 618 downstream to Lawrence Crossing camping area - Trail on west side of WBC parallels creek from 618 road down to Lawrence X-ing campground. Use binoculars to look down into creek, rather than boulder hop down.

Walker Creek water gaps upstream of Private, Walker Creek downstream of 618 bridge - Park at Walker Creek bridge and hike downstream to Beaver creek confluence. There's one pasture fence to cross. 1.5-mile hike one way. Should see leopard frogs jump into perennial pools.

Verde River / 13 Mile Allotment Above Beasley Flat - Drive across Wingfield Mesa via 503 and 9138 E. 4x4 or walk social road down to Verde.

Verde River / 13 Mile Allotment (from Beasley Flat Downstream to X) - Salt Mine Road to Beasley Flat and cross river OR access via 708 to 500 to 9242 to end of 9139S but this requires very technical 4x4

Verde River / 13 Mile Allotment (at end of FR9139R) - 708 to 500 to 9244 to end of 0913R - but this requires very technical 4x4

Verde River / 13 Mile Allotment (from above Beasley Flat downstream to FR500) - Five access points: Salt Mine Rd to Beasley Flat, drive across Wingfield Mesa via 503 and 9138E, 708 to 500 to end of 9242, 500 to end of 9244, end of 500 Road

Upper Verde / Windmill West Allotment from Sycamore confluence to Tapco.

NEW MEMBERS – sometimes it's hard to get started volunteering. I want to assure you that training is provided, support is provided, and there are many things that can either be done on your own or as a group. Activities can be fit to your schedule and you only have to do what you are comfortable doing. As a volunteer, your gift is your time and I definitely respect that. Please let me know how I can help you get involved in a meaningful manner.

Annie Glickstein

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic & Board Meeting

Committee Awards

Air Quality - Cynthia Malowitz



Pat Quinn, Jessica Baldischwiler, Kelly Gardner *Not present*: Brain Painchaud, Jerry Piepiora, Luisa Gaindo, John Zieran

Cultural Resources - Jerry Walters



Cynthia Belowski, Peter Belowski, Bob Beltz, Warren Holm, Bea Logan, Ed Hodges *Not present*: Wayne Swart

Graffiti Removal - Jim White



Kelly Gardner, Sherry MacDonald *Not Present*: Adrienne Pichette, Christine Nuez

Photo Team - Spence Gustav



Ed Hodges, Jon Petrescu *Not Present*: Brain Painchaud

December 2023

Trailhead Beautification - Dale Smrz



John Losse *Not Present*: Ernie DeMillo,
Beatrice Hanks

Visitor Information Services -
Manny Romero



John LaCriola *Not present*:
LaDonna Steiner, Bart Bartlett,
Susie Dunn, Sam Serrill, Vicki
Hill

Trail Maintenance - Glenn Kingsbury Pat Quinn



Kurt Starbuck, Bill Logan, Jim White. *Not Present*: Jeff Maust, Sam Serrill

Trail Patrol & PSAR - Dale Evans



Bob Haizmann, John Crowley, Carol Does
Not Present: Annie Glickstein, Sam Serrill,
Rhett Atkinson

No photo available
River Rangers - Jerry Piepiora

Pat Quinn, Warren Holm



Board Meeting



Lots of conversations and catching up
being done

A little excitement



Helicopter refuel during our picnic



Lovely table set up

Photos by Pat Quinn and
Sue Meyer

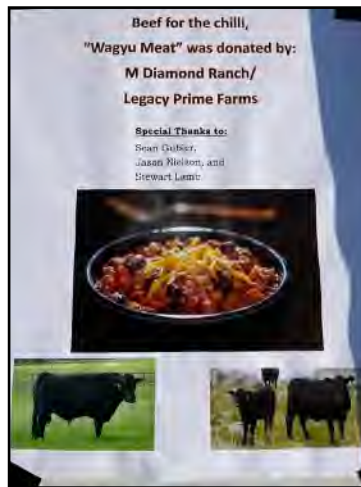


Wagyu Meat Chili



Hot Coffee

Thank you
volunteers
for all you
do!



Thank you for your
donation



Rock Awards 2023 *Presented by Jerry Checchia*

New Volunteer of the Year 2023 – Dale Smrz

Dale joined the Friends in August of 22 and accepted the role as chair of the newly formed Trailhead Beautification committee not too long after that. Talk about jumping right in. He contributed close to 500 hours in his first year with several different committees. It is with great pleasure that we present Dale the New Volunteer of the Year Award. Thanks for all you do!!

Volunteer of the Year 2023 – Glenn Kingsbury

Glenn joined the Friends in January of 22 and has been keeping busy ever since. He has logged in close to 500 hours in a variety of activities. Glenn also took over as co- chair of T M & C where he does most of the admin work. He is also first to sign up for many special projects like painting and pounding in signs. Glenn is an outstanding volunteer and an asset to FOF

Heart of the Friends 2023 – Annie Glickstein

Annie was a tough act to follow as she went above & beyond in many different activities while serving as President. Annie contributed over 900 hours each year in the last three years, she also serves as chair of the Rare Plants/Fish/Wildlife committee and the official Red Rock Pass contact person. Annie also volunteers outside of the Friends in her spare time. Annie puts her heart into everything she does and I'm thankful for her friendship.

Distinguished Volunteer Award 2023 – Sam Serrill

Sam has been a member of the Friends for almost 13 years and has volunteered on a number of committees. He was the "Sign

Guy" when I first joined and I remember him giving me pointers on how to do trail work on one of my first outings. Sam is a regular at the Visitor Center, Trail Maintenance & PSAR, he also took numerous shifts at the Cathedral Rock Closure. Sam is a kind hearted person who always greets you with a smile. The Friends are lucky to have him as a long-time member. Thank you for all you do!!!

Special Recognition Award 2023 – Alan Glickstein

You've heard the line "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain" well this time we are paying EXTRA attention to the man behind the curtain. Alan has given so much of his time as our NEON administrator and other tech stuff that goes on behind the scenes. When he's not at the keyboard you'll see him out on the trails or at PSAR or even walking dogs at the Humane Society. Special THANK YOU to Alan for keeping this organization organized.

President's Award 2023 – Ernie DiMillo

Ernie has been a member of the Friends for 10 years now and has given so much of his time in a wide variety of activities. He ran the trail maintenance crew for 2 years and now helps make the FS signs. He is the "go to" person for many special projects including but not limited to, fence repair, painting, hydroseeder repair and kiosk installs, just to name a few. In his spare time, he also volunteers for other organizations such as the Sedona Heritage Museum. Ernie exemplifies what it means to be a volunteer and is also a great Friend!

Next Board Meeting – December 6, 2023
at 9:00 a.m. at the Admin Building

Jean Ober, Branching Out Editor
newsletter@focsedona.org