

From the President

Greetings fellow Volunteers,

I hope most of you are enjoying this much more seasonal weather we're having. That was the "winteriest" winter I've seen in the seven years I've been here.

I was invited by District Ranger Amy Tinderholt to meet the new Forest Supervisor, Aaron Mayville recently. We met at V-V and this was actually the first time I had seen the petroglyphs as I have only been there to work. If you have not been to V-V yet I strongly encourage you to go. The FOF docents that were on duty that day did an amazing job telling us about the site. They are always looking for more docents so if you have any interest in archeology please consider volunteering your time. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to meet the new FS Supervisor and he was very impressed with all the different activities FOF does for the FS.

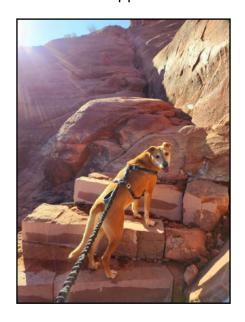
I would like to thank everyone that volunteered at the Cathedral Rock Closure. The work crews were so thankful as they could focus on their work as we guided visitors to other hikes in the area. Including all administrative, organization and coordination activities, FOF volunteered just shy of 1,000 hours in the 2+ months. Pretty impressive!

As things warm up some of our committees might slow down, like TM&C for example, but there is always something going on if you're looking to keep busy. Water sampling starts up the end of May and we will be doing the much needed PSAR program beginning at the end of the month. There is also Trailhead beautification and the air conditioned Visitor Center. So many ways to volunteer and give back. Let me know if you need any more info on any of these committees and I will get you in touch with the right person.

Enjoy this summer and stay safe and hydrated,

Happy Trails Jerry & Chase

Chase Approved!!!



Chase giving the new steps on Cathedral Rock trail a four paw rating

Future Board meeting dates:

May 3, 2023

September 6, 2023

Volunteer Program in November TBD

December 6, 2023

At 9:00 am Hybrid meetings available on Zoom In-person at Red Rock Ranger District Admin. Building

Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants

This is how it always starts out, a simple request from Janie which I forward to the volunteers and sure enough the project was completed in less than a day.

"Hi Annie, Pete, Johnny, and I fixed a small portion of Stagestop fence this morning, but we need another workday. Would you be able to see if any other volunteers have interest in helping rebuild fence? It's down a road that requires high clearance/short wheel base and here's a picture of what we'll have to work across tomorrow. Those that don't have muck boots or old wet-able hiking boots can work in the uplands constructing two gap fences." (Janie)



The fun thing about being the Chairperson for this committee is that I get to help others have great experiences. When I sent out the signup for this particular workday, I received an email from Carol Dores, "Do you know what this involves? We are trying to decide if we are up for it." What a good question. I wanted Carol and Bob (her hubby) to know that working with Janie is one of the best-led volunteer activities we have. Janie provides training and breaks things down into smaller tasks for novice volunteers while empowering the experienced ones. I also know each of the members who signed up and they are all fun, nice, and willing to work at whatever capacity they can.

The workday came and I wasn't able to go on that one because doing the Trail Count at Bandit Trail. So, while I am counting (1 person in an hour, another person the next hour...) I get an

email from Carol. "This was a blast! I may be hooked!"

As Chairperson, that really is what I hope for; that people have opportunities, make friends and connections, and are fulfilled.

I love to get emails like this:

"I think my favorite part was falling on my butt in the water twice, playing in the mud and bending fence wire. The camaraderie! Having Chase there, the oatmeal cookies and nut bars. Okay, all of it." (Carol)"

I really enjoyed meeting and getting to know Carol, she is a wonderful person and I hope we get to work together more when they return in the fall." (Jean)

Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants

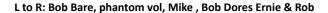


Jerry Checchia fence construction

Thanks to all the volunteers today (Carol and Bob Dores, Mike and Jean Ober, Ernie, Jerry C, Bob Bare, Jeff Maust, Rob Gibbs, and leader Pete Malmgren) who helped repair Stagestop exclosures downstream fence today. We rebuilt a washed-out section in a side channel, constructed two gap fences to place across the main channel after runoff flows recede, and Ernie made three transportable t-posts using buckets and Quickcrete. This exclosure has been

in place since 1996 to protect riparian and aquatic habitat from livestock grazing when Apache Maid cattle are in the winter north pasture. Even with "gap fences" on the upstream and downstream crossings that are rolled up and stashed out of flood waters when livestock aren't in the pasture, the other portions of fences in the floodplain need almost annual repairs. Everyone's help was much appreciated!!!" (Janie)







Jean moving muck

= Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants

LICHENS: - <u>Lichens Brochure</u> and <u>Link to Keep</u> Sedona Beautiful Speaker Series with Garry Neil

We had a Lichen Workshop recently and it was both informative as well as hands-on fun. Carrie Carter, Gerri Crelot, Sharon Evans, Dale Evans, Sam Hough, Janet Walters, and Jerry Walters joined me in person with Don McClimans on remote Teams link. The workshop was created to support Garry Neil's collection since he can't be in Sedona at the moment. Janie provided the snacks and computer while Frank Bungartz, Ph.D.,

Collections Manager of Lichens and Digital Data, Natural History Collections from Arizona State University as well as Will Smith (one of Frank's students) provided the training.

After the lecture was the hands-on training. Frank and Janie had dissecting microscopes in the room "for folks to view lichens under. It's like looking at a sci-fi scene set! So fascinating" (Janie). Outdoors with the group, they demonstrated how to use a loupe lens to get up close and personal with the lichens.



Left to right: Frank Bungartz teaching, Sam Hough, Gerri Crelot, Sharon Evans, Carrie Carter, Janet Walters, Jerry Walters, Annie Glickstein in the back, Dale Evans by the wall, and Will Smith (ASU student)





= Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants







Pacific Chorus Frogs:

Have you seen Oak Creek lately?!? Or should I say, have you "heard" Oak Creek lately?!? The sites I am responsible to monitor for these little critters is loud and rapid still. Maybe in another week or two things will settle down. In the meantime, I really had a nice lunch at the Cress at L'Auberge while scoping out whether or not I might be able to start monitoring there.

I couldn't believe the damage they sustained in the crazy weather we had. The storm damage in our HOA property consisted of uprooted trees and lots of branches down. Please be careful when you are out on any Wildlife / Fish / and Rare Plants activities.

Annie Glickstein, Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plants Chair



Graffiti Removal Team

Big thanks to all that attended our Graffiti Outing on March 14th. We trained newer members in graffiti removal processes. **Bob Haizman** was on hand to give training, and for some of us refresher training, on the Graffiti App. We put our training to practical use and hit the trails around Bell Rock. The weather was fantastic, but we only found several instances of graffiti.



We currently have 98 active members on the team. Many, many graffiti reports are remediated by individual efforts. The graffiti app allows anyone on the team to pursue an 'Assigned' report. It is amazing how many reports are cleared in this manner. Thanks to all for the hundreds of hours spent on these

It seems like we are seeing more and more sign graffiti out on the trails. We have the tools in our arsenal to clean these up. We use paint/graffiti remover, scrapers, and sandpaper on the wood signs. But the number of reports for this continues to grow. Hope this isn't a trend.



efforts. I will be planning more group events now that nicer weather has arrived.

Everyone be careful out there and enjoy our forest.

Jim White, Chairman

I wish to thank all of our board members and committee chairs who turn in excellent articles and pictures for Branching Out.

Jean Ober, Editor

newsletter@fofsedona.org

Membership

Our membership as of April 17, 2023 is 618. Since our last newsletter, 15 new members have joined Friends of the Forest: Joanne Adams, Fran Brooks, Ceci Carter, Amber Douglas, Martha Fox, Kelly Gardner, Dennis Geisser, Parker Reed, Anne Regalski, John Regalski, Dennis Richert, Linda Weaver, Christine Wilkinson, John Wilkinson, Damon Williams

Our total membership always drops down at the beginning of the calendar year when we remove those who have not chosen to renew for the year from our membership rolls. Then, it builds back up during the remainder of the year as new members join.

Committee Chairs whose new members need FOF name tags should now contact me, and I'll arrange to have the tags created by Sedona Engraving.

Craig Swanson

FOF Membership Data as of April 17, 2023 (using calendar years)				
		Annual	Life	Total
2023	New Members Added Since Feb 17, 2023	12	3	15
	Past Members not Renewing for 2023	61	'	
	Current Membership as of 04/17/2023	198	420	618
			,	
2022	New Members Added in 2022	18	5	27
	Past Members not Renewing for 2022	67	,	
	Current Membership as of 11/23/2022	238	411	649
			'	
2021	New Members Added in 2021	46	14	60
	Past Members not Renewing for 2021	60	'	
	Membership at the end of 2021	224	391	615

Visitor Center needs your help

if you like to talk to people

Help direct visitors to great sights and hikes in Sedona

Be available for four hours - am and pm shifts available

Contact Manny Romero at mannyromero@fofsedona.org

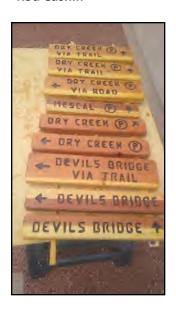
Trail Maintenance & Construction =



The sign crew has been busy creating and installing signs throughout the Red Rock system. After being alerted to confusion at the Devil's Bridge trailhead, we created and installed 9 new signs that should help steer visitors onto the Chuckwagon Trail and off of the Jeep road. Signs now direct visitors to the Mescal and Dry Creek parking lots.

There is an ongoing need to replace weathered or missing signs. Since we are now responsible for creating and installing the signs ourselves, we are able to accomplish replacement in a more timely manner.

Rod Cashin







Trail work on Gridner Trail



Work on Gridner Trail and farewell pizza with forest service personnel before they head out to their summer destinations

Trail Maintenance & Construction



Jim Manning training Jerry Checchia on the finer points of crosscut sawing





In the Process



The final results

Trail Maintenance & Construction =

Hello everyone,

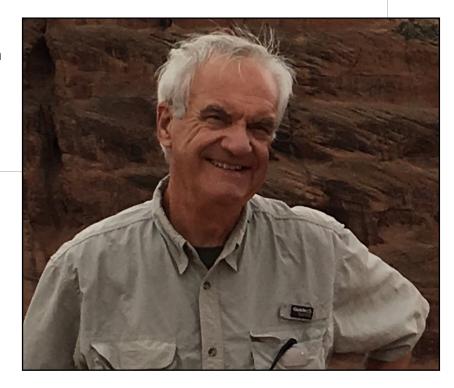
It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of Jim Manning's passing on April 12th . Jim joined Friends of the Forest more than 22 years ago and his dedication to the national forest never waned over all those years. Jim was always the first to volunteer to remove downed trees on both the Coconino and Prescott National Forests and helped train countless volunteers on the art and science of trail maintenance and tree removal. In addition to working with the Trail Maintenance & Construction crew, Jim also gave his time and talents to the River Rangers and Wildlife Fish & Rare Plants groups.

Jim's kind soul, warm heart, and generous nature will be missed by all that knew him. Please join me in keeping his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this challenging time.

You can view the full obituary here

Service for Jim Manning May 5th at 10:30am Immaculate Conception Church 700 N. Bill Gray Rd Cottonwood

Sincerely, Jerry Checchia



"Next time you walk a trail in Coconino and Prescott National Forest, remember that there is a good chance Jim placed the stones underfoot."

Dave Manning

Interpretive Programs:

Not much news to report from the Interpretive Committee. We are finishing up our educational walks/hikes. Since last October locals and visitors alike have enjoyed the geology hikes (hike leader Barry Mallis), bird watching walks (hike leader Kevin Harding) and wildflower walks (hike leader Bob Beltz). The leaders have done a great job! Due to the winter weather, we had to cancel a few hikes. We've had some interesting weather, right?

If any FoF member would like to present a topic either by leading a hike/walk or an inside presentation, please reach out to me. We are always interested in sharing/teaching our locals and visitors about our beautiful red rock district.

(Actively looking for a photography hike/ presentation(s) on how to take the best photos with a camera/cell phone.) This could be done at any time of the year.

Please contact me, if interested, and I will discuss it with the RRRD visitor center. They will have the ultimate say-so.

"May the Forest be with you".

Bea Logan

Chair, Interpretive & Educational Programs Committee

interpretive@fofsedona.org



Flower walk with Bob Beltz



Flower walk with Bob Beltz

Cultural Resources

The May Docent Calendar is now online - https://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/fofdocents

Honanki:

There are openings every day. Weekend and Mon./Fri. coverage is our top priority. Please volunteer at Palatki before considering Honanki.

Palatki Critical Need Days:

May 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17. – 2 People Every Friday. Every Saturday.

The only days that we DO NOT need help are: The last two Wednesdays. All other days could use a 4th person.

V-Bar-V:

For flexibility in scheduling, I am now showing all days as taking two people and one person. I still want to retain two open slots for site hosts each week, but would like to offer more options for volunteers and not have an arbitrary fixed schedule of days with only one volunteer vs. two volunteers.

We have every Sunday (AM & PM), Monday (PM), Friday (PM), and Saturday (AM & PM) slots available. Please let me know if you can help.

THANKS!

Jerry Walters

Cultural Resources and Protection Committee Chair (928) 284-1339

Docent Potluck at Palatki



Docents celebrating a great season and saying goodbye to site hosts.

Trail Patrol

Summer is fast approaching, it is getting very warm if not hot and there are a lot of hikers that put desire before ability (or just don't know any better). FoF Sedona talked with almost 8,000 hikers to "The Crack" and Devils Bridge last year providing information on what the hikes entail, environmental hazards (heat/fire/ flood) and offering alternatives where appropriate. We directly influenced 15-20% who altered their plans for the day. Expectations are even greater for 2023 so I am opening this training session to all Trail Patrol members. Tune in and if you can help, let me know and I will add you to PSAR - we can use your experience and help.

Tuesday May 2nd from 9-10AM we will have a ZOOM session reviewing what/ when/where/why/how of FoF Sedona PSAR.

For those returning team members, this will be similar to last year with slight changes as to equipment storage locations and suggested hike alternatives. We also have new FS provided pop-up tents that are sturdier (read heavier) and set up a little different. I will be glad to arrange dates for demos in Sedona and VOC if there is interest.

Dale Evans



Don't forget to sync your graffiti and trail patrol apps before you head out.

Air & Water Quality

The Water Monitoring Team is gearing up for the 2023 season. We will begin collecting and processing water samples from Oak Creek in the latter part of May. We will continue to monitor six locations in Fossil Creek monthly. My husband Mark and I collected samples in Fossil Creek last month and were surprised to see how high the water level had risen from the melting snow. The trail to the big waterfall was washed out in several areas and there were large areas of debris everywhere (picture below).

We continue to change the air filters at Ike's Backbone on a weekly basis. We work with some engineers from U.C. Davis in San Francisco and they monitor the air quality for the USFS in the Mazatal Wilderness. I got a chance to meet them last month when they came to perform yearly maintenance. I had spoken on the phone

and exchanged emails with them several times, so it was nice to finally meet them (picture below). They had never been to Sedona before and were surprised at the unique beauty of our red rocks.

Spring is in the air and there's a super-bloom of wild flowers occurring this year. I took pictures of some beautiful displays of color in Fossil Creek (below). There were acres of yellow poppies and purple flowers throughout the area.

Cynthia Malowitz Chair - Air Quality and Water Monitoring







