



From the President

Times of change allow for reflection on the past and anticipation of the future. In recent months, the Red Rock District has seen a number of personnel changes. Visitor Center Supervisor **Nina Hubbard**, Recreation Manager **Adam Barnett** and District Ranger **Nicole Branton** have all taken promotions elsewhere within the Forest Service. While the Forest Service has yet to fill Nina's and Adam's positions, **Amy Tinderholt** has been appointed as the new permanent District Ranger. Friends of the Forest is grateful for the opportunity to have worked so closely and so long with Nina, Adam and Nicole, and we look forward to partnering with Amy in the coming months and years.

The seasons of course are changing, too. Now that the summer heat is abating, and fall is around the corner, our activities are ramping back up. That doesn't mean we haven't been on the job, though! Our river rangers, air quality monitoring and water sampling teams work throughout the summer, led respectively by **Mike Ober**, **Brian Painchaud** and **Al Cornell**. Unfortunately, the vandals who desecrate our red rocks don't take the summer off, so our graffiti crew led by **Jerry Piepiora** worked on many hot days to clean the district.

Our newest formal committee led by **Marilyn Painchaud**, Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants, was also particularly active over the summer. In contrast, due to the heat, Trail Maintenance and Construction and Trail Patrol activities slowed down a bit, but **Jerry Checchia** and **Terri** and **Jon Petrescu** will see an upswing in activity as the weather cools down.

Some of our activities of course continue all year long regardless of the weather: Interpretive Programs coordinated by **Bob Wych**, Cultural Resource activities led by **Jerry Walters**, and VIS support chaired by **Bev Jackson**.

On August 10, we helped staff the events at Smokey Bear's 75th birthday party held at the Visitor Center. A special thanks to all our members who volunteered their time to help make this public celebration such a success.

On Wednesday September 11 we'll be holding our Fall Board meeting, with refreshments served at 8:30 am and business commencing at 9:00 am. All members are welcome and invited to attend. The meeting will be at the Forest Service Administration Building, adjacent to the Visitor Center off of Hwy 179 south of the Village of Oak Creek.

October 1 marks the beginning of federal fiscal year 2020, so it's time to update our Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) form(s). All you need to do is log in to NEON and then select "Review and Sign JHA" from the Member Portal page. If it's been a while since you've logged in to NEON, you can do so from the "Members" area of our FOF website. To volunteer on any of our committees, you must have signed a current JHA for that committee.

Committee chairs and volunteers – please make sure you've entered all hours for fiscal year 2019 no later than the first week of October so that we can 'close out' the fiscal year.

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Annual Meeting

Ballot

This year, the Officer and Director Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that six members have chosen to be put into nomination for another 3-year term: **Tom Cloonan, Spence Gustav, Bob Haizmann, Brian Painchaud, Joe Pokorski, and myself, Craig Swanson.** I'm pleased to announce that three individuals have agreed to be put into nomination as new Board members: **Annie Glickstein, Noreen Lisowski, and Bea Logan.** Three members are retiring from the Board: **Bev Jackson, Jim Manning, and Kurt Starbuck.** Thank you for your great contributions to our organization.

You will find a nomination ballot on Page 4 of this issue of Branching Out which you can fill out and send in if you will

not be able to attend our Annual Membership Meeting. Or, you can easily vote online by accessing a link that will be sent to you in a separate communication that will arrive via email in October.

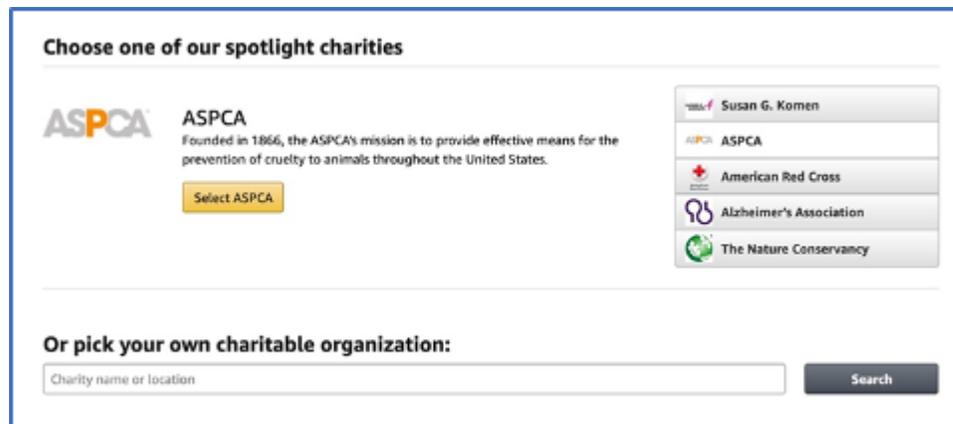
However, we strongly encourage members to vote in person at the FOF Annual Membership Meeting that will be held on Saturday, November 2 at 10:00 at the Beaver Creek Workstation. At this meeting, we'll also hold our annual awards ceremony and celebrate our 25 years of service to the Red Rock District. The Forest Service's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic to follow, starting at 11:00. I hope to see you there!

Donate by Shopping Amazon Smile

While Friends of the Forest does not endorse any web-based shopping portal, if you already use Amazon, they offer a simple and automatic way for you to support FOF every time you make a purchase. You simply shop at www.Smile.Amazon.com.

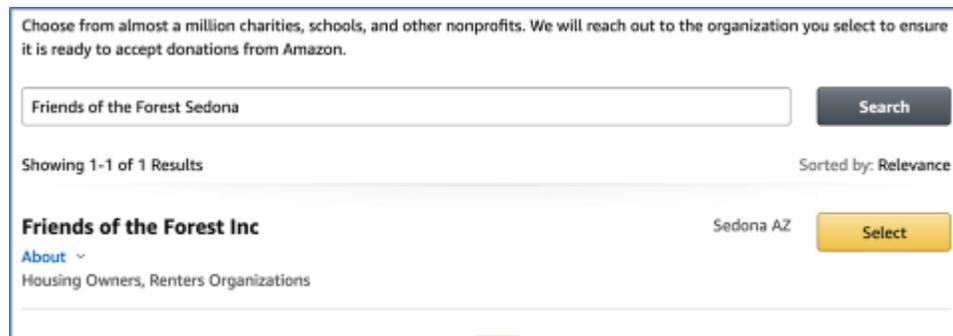
When you shop at Smile.Amazon.com, you are in fact shopping on Amazon and it's **exactly** the same price as shopping on Amazon.com. However, you get the added bonus that the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible products to Friends of the Forest.

First go to Smile.Amazon.com. On the Amazon Smile web page, you will see something like the following:



The screenshot shows the 'Choose one of our spotlight charities' section of the Amazon Smile website. On the left, the ASPCA logo is displayed with the text 'ASPCA' and 'Founded in 1866, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.' Below this is a yellow 'Select ASPCA' button. On the right, there is a vertical list of other charities: Susan G. Komen, ASPCA, American Red Cross, Alzheimer's Association, and The Nature Conservancy. Below the spotlight charities, there is a section titled 'Or pick your own charitable organization:' with a search input field labeled 'Charity name or location' and a 'Search' button.

In the box under the label "Or pick your own charitable organization", simply type Friends of the Forest Sedona. Click on Search, and you will then see something like the following:



The screenshot shows the search results for 'Friends of the Forest Sedona'. At the top, it says 'Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.' Below this is a search input field containing 'Friends of the Forest Sedona' and a 'Search' button. The results show 'Showing 1-1 of 1 Results' and 'Sorted by: Relevance'. The result is 'Friends of the Forest Inc' located in 'Sedona AZ', with a yellow 'Select' button. Below the result, there is a link for 'About' and the text 'Housing Owners, Renters Organizations'.

Click the Select box.

From now on, Smile.Amazon.com will remember your selection, and FOF will get a donation from every eligible purchase you make. Now, you just need to always go to Smile.Amazon.com instead of Amazon.com. If you have Amazon.com bookmarked on your web browser, change that bookmark to instead go to Smile.Amazon.com

Craig Swanson

Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of Women at Work on the National Forest

From its very earliest days, women volunteers have been front, center and out to the far reaches of the Sedona Friends of the Forest (FOF) organization. As leaders, innovators, or by just plain showing up to get a job done, FOF women have contributed daily to supporting the Red Rock District forest lands, wildlife and visitors.

Mary Lee Dunning set the stage as the founding President of the organization in 1994. She has been followed by many other women as FOF officers, work team or project leaders, and skilled administrative volunteers. On the USDA Forest Service side, women in key positions in the Agency have been supervisors and mentors for FOF volunteers, including some who have worked continuously on the District for twenty-five years.

Through the twenty years for which data is available, Friends women have logged over 150,000 hours of volunteer service, accounting for one of every three hours of FOF work. They are active in all eleven of the Friends work teams, known as Committees, and currently lead three of these teams. Trail Patrol, Visitor Information Services and Cultural Site Docent duty are particularly popular, accounting for almost 70% of this year's women volunteer hours to date. And Friends women can be found working on Trail Maintenance crews, scrubbing graffiti off our red rocks, driving bumpy Forest roads for Air Quality Monitoring or River Ranger Support, and hiking to remote areas for a variety of wildlife and rare plant projects.

Behind the statistics are women like **Justine Kusner, Darl Rector and Jean Ober** who have logged a mere 14,000 hours of service collectively during their years with the Friends. On the occasion of the Friends 20th anniversary, Justine, who served as FOF President in 1999 and 2000, wrote about what attracted her and husband Bill to the Friends: "It was the phrase 'Let's Get Physical'. Less talk, more work. That's our kind of group."

Darl Rector has devoted so much time to patrolling and maintaining our area trails for twenty-four years together with husband Gene, that the Forest Service recently named a trail for the volunteer couple. The Rector Connector is located between Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte. Darl says, "The best thing that happened to Gene and I in retirement was finding and joining FOF. We have made so many wonderful friends and enjoyed a variety of activities. To me, working in the beauty of the red rocks was much like being in

a huge outdoor cathedral. Having a trail named for us has to be the ultimate honor! I am thrilled to still be able to hike and spend time with some great gals on the trails."

Jean Ober is surely a Renaissance FOF volunteer, having brought her talent and energy to nearly every one of the diverse activities of the organization, including serving on the Board and as Newsletter Editor. "The name of our organization "Friends" truly reflects what it is like for me to work with others on the many Committees we have. On trail maintenance, no one is expected to work beyond their capability and I can trim cat claw and branches off the trails, use a McLeod tool to clean drains and reshape trails, plant native cacti to revegetate areas as well as help build rock structures working along-side other ladies and gentlemen of the crew. Comradery and a sense of a job well done are rewards along with the many Friends I have made. These friendships continue to grow as I have expanded to more activities within the organization," Jean says.

The ten busiest women volunteers over the twenty years of recorded data include, **Justine Kusner, Helen Campbell, Darl Rector, Susan Vitek, Lois Johnson, Jean Ober, Sonya Landholm, Marge Larson, Carol Wirkus and Peg Kern**. Collectively, they have contributed 160 years of service to the Red Rock District.

Preparing this story has reinforced my experience of Friends of the Forest as an organization culture where gender is not of consequence. What a delight! In fact, some women I spoke to about the topic of women in the organization expressed surprise that this would be a topic to write about. I have enjoyed this non-topic, nonetheless. My congratulations to the many women volunteering across twenty-five years on the Red Rock District of the National Forest.

And, yes, a few batches of cookies and banana bread have been prepared through the years to sustain those attending FOF quarterly membership meetings.

Jennifer Young

Merchandise

The 25th Anniversary commemorative water bottles have arrived. Made from stainless steel, these 25 oz bottles are light, yet sturdy. Only 50 have been purchased, so you'll want to get yours before they're all gone.

The bottles are available at all Board meetings and the annual picnic in November. They sell for \$15 each. We now accept credit card payment in addition to cash or a personal check. If you cannot make the meetings or the picnic, you may contact me directly at terryorlick@q.com to reserve a bottle.

Terry



Interpretive Programs

The Interpretive Programs "Committee" (yours truly), with lots of help from Jennifer Young and Craig Swanson, helped the Forest Service plan the celebration of the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear on August 10. We worked with the Forest Service planning committee to organize the signup of FOF members who volunteered for several of the displays and "fun" stations. Thanks to all who volunteered! A good time was had by all.

Two new events and several repeat events are scheduled for October through November. First Friday presentations will include these new topics: "Fresh Eyes on an Ancient Landscape: Sedona Paleogeology" by FOF member Barry Mallis (on October 4), and "Backyard Composting" by Master Gardener Jennifer Moreland (on November 8). Kevin Harding will return and resume his ever-popular birding walks on October 22.

If you, or someone you know, has a special skill, knowledge, or interest suitable for either an outdoor guided walk or hike, or an indoor presentation, please contact either Ranger Candice Mark at the Visitors Center or me at bobwych@aol.com or 515-360-0484.

For a complete list of upcoming events and a brief description of each one, check out the "Events" tab on the FOF home page on a frequent basis.

Bob Wych
Chair, Interpretive Programs

Trail Patrol

Trail Patrol members continued to hike through the summer. Several of the new Western Gateway trails were covered as well as the rerouted Girdner Trail. The ability of trail patrol members trained to remove graffiti that are scratches on the red rock was favorably commented on by several members. The upgrades to the original smart phone FOF Report app, now called the FOF Graffiti app, to report graffiti, be assigned to remove it, and update the status on the trail really enhances Trail Patrol capabilities. The app also allows members to see if there is reported, but unassigned, graffiti on or near the trail they are going to patrol and elect to perform the removal of it. This function is made much easier with the map of locations of graffiti in the app and using it to navigate to the graffiti location. Thank you, **Bob Haizmann!**

With September 30 rapidly approaching, the end of the government fiscal year, it is critically important that all trail patrollers log their hike as soon as possible after completing it. All volunteer hours for this fiscal year need to be reported

to the Forest Service within the first week of October.

The Trail Patrol committee will continue to schedule one to four group hikes each month. This serves the purpose of training new members to Trail Patrol, helping people to meet new friends, and getting the Trail Patrol co-chairs out on the trails on a regular basis. We always ask those who hike with us which trails they would like to do as a group hike. We also try to include trails that are not as often hiked. So, come and join us.

Jon and Terri



Our New District Ranger Amy Tinderholt

Soon after she was named Acting District Ranger for the Red Rock District of the National Forest, **Amy Tinderholt** learned that her appointment was made permanent. Amy comes to the district from the Deschutes National Forest in Bend, Oregon where she had served as Deputy District Ranger.

Among her areas of expertise is an emphasis on recreation, a critical focus on the Red Rock District. Another critical focus here is of course fire prevention and control, something our district shares with the Deschutes National Forest. Getting acquainted with Friends of the Forest was early on Amy's agenda. On her second week on the job, a group of FOF leaders met with Amy for a general introduction to our organization. We emphasized that our mission calls out our partnership with the Red Rock Ranger District, helping fill the gap between needs and resources, working under the direction of the Forest Service.

Photo courtesy of the Red Rock News

Membership

Since our board meeting in May, this current reporting period - (05/08/2018 through 08/31/2019) - we have added 25 new members. After dropping those who did not pay their annual dues, we are still at a total of 575 members!

During this period, most new members joined as family. Those include – **Sonya & Mark Wrisley, Rosalie & Dwight O'Donnell, Mike & Pat Donahue, Jonathan & Michelle Sales, Jan & Joel Soldan, Doreen Dziejak & Craig Lefebvre, George & Carolyn Welsh, Bill & Mindy Root, Bill & Bea Logan, and April & Andrew Heinrich.** Individual members include – **Steph Helms, Leslie Jackson, Jane Coe Smith, Crystal Starr Weaver Hutchinson, and Bradley Blalock.** Nearly all of these volunteers chose multiple areas of interest. We hope all of our new members enjoy volunteering in the areas they chose. To the committee chairs, please look for their names in your emails.

Thank you all for joining and supporting Friends of the Forest.

By the time our members read this, my replacement, **Noreen Lisowski**, should have returned with her husband Jan from an extended stay in Colorado. Welcome back Noreen and Jan. As much as I have enjoyed being involved with our new members – especially the new member welcoming event, I'm sure Noreen is also excited about becoming involved in this most important "lifeblood" committee. All the best, Noreen!

And – as usual, here is the membership form. We have not increased our annual dues for 2019.

Jerry Piepiora, Membership Chair
Email: membership@fosedona.org (443.324.1360)

Friends of the Forest Membership Dues, 2019

Name(s) _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Category:

- Friend \$25 Family \$35
- Lifetime Friend \$150 Lifetime Family \$250
- Additional Donation \$ _____

Please remember your funds will be dedicated to maintaining, protecting, and restoring the scenic beauty of our National Forest lands in the Sedona area.

You can go online to

www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org,

select "Join Us," and follow the steps to **renew**, using PayPal or Credit Card. You can also use this form and mail in your renewal to:

Friends of the Forest Sedona

P O Box 2391

Sedona, AZ 86339-2391

I would like to extend a special **Thank You** to the docents who have spent time at Palatki, V-Bar-V, and Honanki during June, July, & August. Not only is this the hottest time of the year, we are also chronically short of site hosts over these months and our pool of available docents declines by 1/3. During this 3-month period we had 15 – 22 people per month volunteering an average of 18 – 26 hours per person for a total of 1,142 hours!! This is an increase of 15% over last year and 40% from 2016. Keeping the sites fully staffed and operational is a high priority for the Forest Service. This team has stepped up to meet that challenge and deserves high praise for their dedication and endurance!

Site Recording Project

The team has been on summer hiatus and will be resuming activities in October.

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

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

The site photography project still has several years of work ahead. The current list of ongoing projects includes re-photographing major prehistoric sites using conventional, RTI, and 3-D technologies, similar photography for newly recorded sites, and periodic monitoring of the dust study images at Palatki and Honanki. The team has also been busy creating 3-D images of selected historical Forest Service structures in the Red Rock and Peaks districts. Activities have slowed down considerably over the summer months due to the heat. The team was able to complete 3-D modeling projects for historic structures at Crescent Moon Ranch and a project with the National Park Service (Montezuma Castle NM) to model a modern reconstruction of 4th level room.

This team has been in operation for a little more than 6 years and completed their first 3-D model in June of 2016. In that time, they have visited and photographed over 500 sites (over 100 were “new” sites to the Forest Service) and taken over 100,000 photos! They have also created over 1,600 3-D models that have had over 26,000 views on the Sketchfab hosting site (<https://sketchfab.com/FOFSedona>).

The team has recently taken on an ASU Archaeology undergraduate student **April Heinrich** to help the Friends with the Dust Study project and assist April to gain credits towards her degree.

Governor’s Award for Avocational Archaeology – Spence Gustav received this prestigious award on behalf of the entire team at a statewide meeting held in Prescott. The award was for their leading-edge work in 3-D modeling and the Dust Study. They are learning that the Dust Study work has crossed over into the bleeding-edge arena. Spence also participated in a panel discussion on these topics. Kudos to this small, fanatical, and talented team on their accomplishments!

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

Docent Program

Join me in welcoming new FoF members and new docents **Bea Logan, Michelle Prostrollo, and Steph Helms**. Thanks to Spence Gustav for conducting the Palatki and Honanki training.

A hearty “Welcome Back” to **Paul LeFevre** after nearly a year long hiatus due to a leg injury suffered in a motorcycle accident in July 2018! His return was just in time for the summer. Gratefully, he is making up for the lost time.

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

If you are interested in helping protect our cultural heritage sites and learning more about the **Palatki, Honanki and V-Bar-V** sites, consider joining the Cultural Resource and Protection Committee. For more information, please call or email (docents@fosedona.org).

Jerry Walters 284-1339

Greetings fellow volunteers,

We were planning on taking the summer off but have kept pretty busy right up until mid-August.

After working on all the trails up the canyon we had a few special projects that came up like weed whacking around the Admin Building & Visitor Center & work at Palatki to name a few. We spent four Fridays in a row at Palatki spreading DG & AB, pulling weeds and installing a drain outside the Visitor center. We also cleaned the drain over at Airport vista parking, which always seems to fill up with debris. Throw in a few downed trees and there ya go, we are back to starting up our regular Fridays in September.

Hopefully we will get some much needed rain, as we are nearing the end of "monsoon season".

We have a great crew with lots of new faces and I look forward to another great season of TM&C.

See you out on the trails,

Happy Hiking

Jerry Checchia



Ed White, Jeff Maust and Jerry Checchia on Sterling Pass trail



Peggy Spencer-Coen, Richard Spencer-Coen and Bill Logan removing downed tree in West Fork



TM&C crew at Airport Vista close to the Vortex

Pictures by J. Checchia

Welcome back summer travelers!

Since our last Board meeting, it seems like we've been preoccupied with the removal of PAINT!

Of course, by numbers of reports, the vast majority of graffiti is still scratching on the rocks. This kind of damage is being continually remediated by approximately 40 of our team members. The most active (30 or more hours in the field since April) are **Jerry Checchia, Tim Fogarty, Annie Glickstein, Bob Haizmann, Bill and Bea Logan, Les and Barb Heffner, and Pete Malmgren**. A special note of appreciation for their outstanding efforts. In addition, we have welcomed even more new members who have completed their software and field training and are now joining our group on outings. A very warm welcome to **Mike Donahue, Rod Cashin, and Jeff Harvey**.

We've kept everyone busy at the usual problem sites – Bell Rock, Slide Rock, West Fork, Fay Arch, and Devil's Bridge. These are in addition to the less frequented locations where a single team member can remove scratching.

Paint, however, is still our most challenging problem. The removal process is made even more frustrating, I guess, because it is so much easier to carry a couple of cans of spray paint into the forest and wilderness than it is for us to lug the gallons of water, "Snot", wire brushes, high pressure washer, and miscellaneous supplies (Does the term Sherpa sound

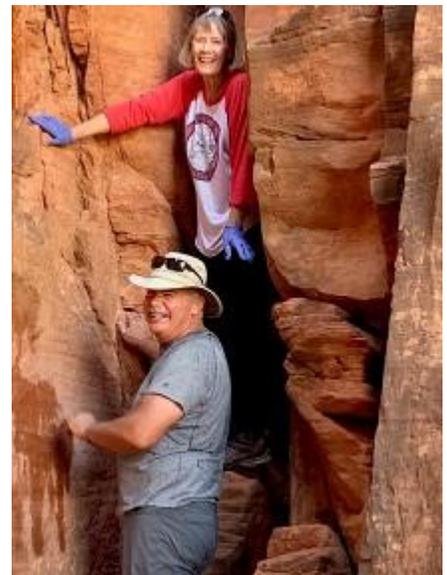
familiar)? Areas which we have cleaned are HT Trail, Little Horse trailhead restrooms, Munds Wagon, Huckaby Trail (exact same rock TWICE in two weeks), Slide Rock, and 89A at the switchbacks.

In addition, I am excited to report that our team has been requested by the Forest Service Flagstaff District to assist their Rangers in naturalizing a very serious paint situation. They do not have a similar volunteer force to assist them with the removal and our Red Rock Graffiti Removal team is more than glad to be of assistance. We've met with their Recreation Manager, Mr. Pat McGervey and his Volunteer Coordinator, Mr. Paul Dawson to review our graffiti remediation methods, learn about their methods, and share ideas for future cooperative efforts. Shortly after this report is submitted, on Thursday, 9/5/2019, we will be taking a large graffiti team to Flagstaff and will spend the morning working with their staff removing as much paint as time allows. Attached to this article are several photos from our first visit.

It's obvious that summer was not a vacation time for us. However, all 78 of our members take great pride and satisfaction in knowing we really are making a difference in the forest.

Keep the reports coming!

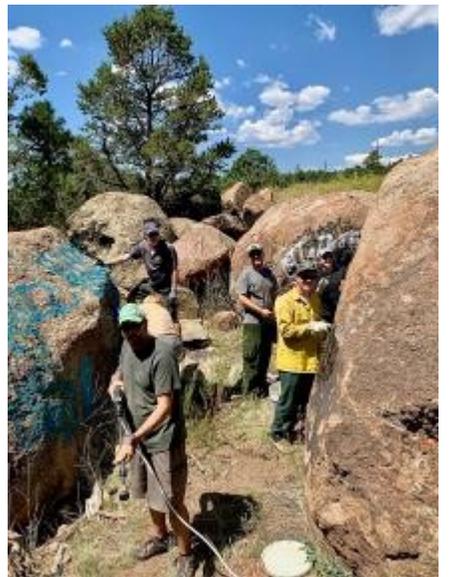
Jerry Piepiora, Chairman



Fay Canyon "Arch" has been a target of lots of graffiti over the years (Photo #1), the Forest Service has requested graffiti removal from eye level and below. Our team in the second photo are left to right, Paula Potter, Bob Haizmann, Pete Malmgren, Les Heffner, Barb Heffner (seated) and Deneise Piepiora working hard on the Arch. The third photo are Les and Barb Heffner - they are always fun to be around.



This boulder is on Huckaby Trail below Midgely bridge, cleaned by the two Jerrys', reported again the next week. Cleaned again!



Photos are typical of the massive amounts of paint on boulders in Flagstaff district and our team in action to remediate it.



Team Photo - Annie Glickstein, Bob Haizmann, Paul Dawson, Nancy Berling, Matt Sommer, Jerry Checchia, and me behind the camera



Our team met with Flagstaff Forest Service staff to discuss graffiti remediation. From left - Bob Haizmann, Pat McGervey, Paul Dawson, Matt Sommer, Nancy Berlin and Annie Glickstein.

Photos by J. Piepiora

Smokey Bear Birthday Party A Roaring Success

With the help of over 20 FOF volunteers, the Forest Service celebrated Smokey Bear's 75th birthday with a very well attended party. Festivities were held on Saturday August 10 at the Red Rock District Visitor Center. Smokey of course made an appearance, although he somehow refrained from having a piece of the beautiful birthday cake that visitors enjoyed.

The reporter from the Red Rock News who covered the event noted that everyone he spoke with while he was in attendance was local, a testimony to how the Visitor Center serves the community.

Attendees enjoyed a host of activities including taking pictures with Smokey, 'putting out the fire' by dunking FOF volunteers in the dunk tank, enjoying complementary snowcones, visiting the vintage Forest Service Fire Truck, creating a necklace, and playing a number of different games. The children in attendance seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

A highlight of the day was a raffle drawing for the spectacular quilt created and donated by local artist Eunice Hill. Proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Wildland Firefighters' Foundation, to help families who have lost a firefighter. If you were unable to purchase a ticket but would still like to make a donation, you can do so at www.wffoundation.org.



Putting the fire out photos by M. Romero



Our own Manny Romero's name was pulled from the hat! Manny then generously donated the quilt to the Forest Service so that it can be enjoyed at the Visitor Center for years to come. Thank you, Manny!



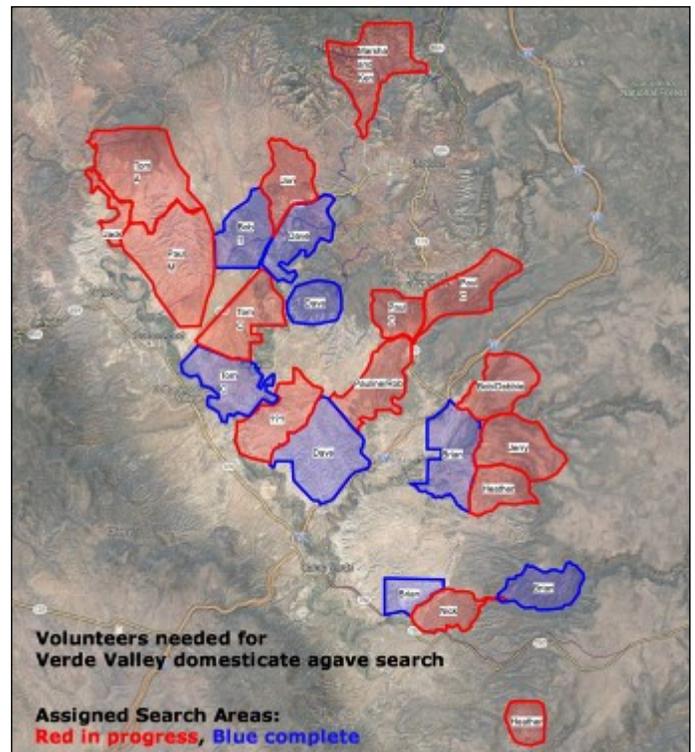
Smokey Bear enjoying his 75th Birthday Party showing how he PREVENTS FOREST FIRES by putting Mr. Fire in the dunk tank. Photo by M. Vitek

Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plant Projects

Arizona Toad Inventory Year 2: In the spring of 2019, 20 trained volunteers assisted district biologist, Janie Agyagos, in conducting a second year of surveys for Arizona toads on the Red Rock Ranger District; none were found. These surveys provide support for listing the Arizona toad as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Three methodologies were used: nighttime call point surveys at accessible sites, daytime visual surveys at less accessible sites, and acoustic recordings in very remote headwaters. Five species of amphibians were detected: canyon treefrog, the non-native Pacific treefrog, Woodhouse toad, red-spotted toad, and lowland leopard frog. All nighttime survey data was entered into an ArcGIS app created by volunteer **Rob Gibbs**. In addition to night call point surveys, visual surveys revealed canyon treefrogs. A third sampling technique, used for the first time in 2019, was the deployment of recorders at 14 head water locations, mostly in wilderness areas. Recorder data is still being analyzed by volunteers using Raven Pro sound analysis software from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. So far volunteers have analyzed 5,614 hours of data and have confirmed recordings of canyon treefrog and many bird species, a few of which were unexpected. According to volunteer **Annie Glickstein**, "Although the main target of this study was Arizona Toads, Raven provided the opportunity to make a small collection of bird calls that were identified by some of the FOF birders". Her most unusual bird call detected is the Northern Saw-whet Owl, "because it sounds like a squeaky gate".

The Search Continues: Verde Valley Domesticate Agave Inventory... FOF volunteers are participating in a project to find and document agave varieties cultivated by the pre-Columbian people. These domesticated agaves were used for food, medicine, cordage, textiles, and building materials. Botanists have identified 4 types of domesticated agaves in the Verde Valley with 2 of those endemic to the Verde Valley. Domesticated agaves are most likely found near archaeological sites. The attached map shows areas assigned to volunteers to search, with red indicating in progress, blue complete. Search techniques include hiking, glassing (binoculars), and driving on remote Forest Service roads. There are many areas left to search - a training session will be held when cooler hiking weather returns. If interested, contact Marilyn Painchaud at wildlife@fosedona.org

Marilyn



Volunteer Hours

As we approach the end of the Forest Service's fiscal year (Oct-Sept), our incredible volunteers have recorded 32,498 hours (preliminary numbers through August), a mere 1,050 hours less than last year's record-setting pace. Given that, at the end of February, we were behind last year's numbers by just over 4,000 hours, we

have made a remarkable comeback. This year's challenges include the December/January government shutdown, some real winter weather in February, and the extreme heat of July and August. In spite of that, six of our committees are actually ahead of last year's pace!

Committee	FY19 Hrs. thru Aug (prelim)	FY18 Same Period	Change in Hours	% Change
Air Quality	432	478	-46	-9.5%
Cultural Resources	7,954	9,484	-1,530	-16.1%
Graffiti Removal	1,612	1,387	+226	+16.3%
Interpretive Pgm	365	549	-185	-33.6%
River Rangers	249	242	+7	+2.9%
Special Projects	256	881	-626	-71.0%
Trail Maint&Const	3,331	2,996	+335	+11.2%
Trail Patrol	8,130	7,135	+995	+13.9%
VIS	3,812	4,597	-784	-17.1%
Water Sampling	283	179	+104	+58.1%
Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants	3,714	3,074	+640	+20.8%
Admin/Meetings	2,362	2,548	-187	-7.3%
Total	32,498	33,547	-1,050	-3.1%

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, 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. This next month-end (September) is the most important one, as it will be the FINAL opportunity to report hours for FY19. So please **ensure all your hours are in by October 7, 2019** at the very latest. No late Trail Patrol reports, please!

NEON (Member Information Software)

Once October rolls around with the start of the new fiscal year for the Forest Service, remember that all our active volunteers will need to sign the appropriate JHA's (Job Hazard Agreement) once again. When you log in

to our administrative system (NEON – Nonprofit Enterprise Online Network) to do this, take a moment to also review all your information and update as appropriate. You can also view your total FOF hours by fiscal year from 2014 forward.

To log in, go to the Friends website (friendsoftheforestsedona.org), click on "Members", then scroll down and click on "Member Login". Instructions are provided directly below the Member Login link.

Peg Kern

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday September 11, 2019 9:00 AM - Ranger Station

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

Annual Meeting - November 2, 2019

December 11,2019

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.



Annual Meeting Notice

General Membership Meeting

Election of Board of Directors

And

The Annual Awards Program

Saturday, November 2, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Beaver Creek Work Center

South of Highway 179 to the Intersection of 1-17. Go under the freeway and continue straight ahead onto FR 618 for two miles. Turn left into the Beaver Creek Work Center.

Friends of the Forest members, potential members and guests are invited.

Be a part of this important event

Following our meeting, the Forest Service will hold their Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, with presentations from the Forest Service beginning at 11:00 a.m., and light refreshments served at 12:00 noon.

Friends of the Forest

Ballot for the 2020 Board of Directors

If you plan to attend the November 2 Annual Meeting, you will be able to vote at that meeting and should NOT use this ballot. If you will not attend the Annual Meeting, OR if you would like to write-in another candidate for a Board position, please use this ballot to cast your vote. On-line voting will be available prior to the November meeting.

Continuing on the Board

The following Board members have agreed to serve another 3-year term: **Tom Cloonan, Spence Gustav, Bob Haizmann, Brian Painchaud, Joe Pokorski, and Craig Swanson**

Retiring from the Board

With our sincere gratitude for their service! **Bev Jackson, Jim Manning, and Kurt Starbuck**

New Board Members

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate **Annie Glickstein, Noreen Lisowski, and Bea Logan** to serve 3-year terms.

Our Bylaws require that write-in votes be received by the Secretary before 5 p.m. of the day preceding the Annual Meeting. No nominations may be made from the floor. The new Directors' term in office begins as soon as the election results are announced at the meeting. *Directors Nominating Committee Members: Marilyn Painchaud, Deneise Piepiora, Craig Swanson, Jerry Walters, and Jennifer Young*

MAIL-IN BALLOT

For members who will not be attending the November 2 Annual Meeting OR for members who wish to write-in another candidate's name.

Please cast your vote by placing a check next to the candidates of choice or by writing in the name(s) of another candidate. Please do not vote for more than 9 candidates, including any write-in candidates.

Tom Cloonan Spence Gustav Annie Glickstein Bob Haizmann
 Noreen Lisowski Bea Logan Brian Painchaud Joe Pokorski
 Craig Swanson

Write-in Candidate(s) _____

Name(s) of FOF member(s) who is (are) voting: _____

Mail your ballot to: *Friends of the Forest, PO Box 2391, Sedona AZ 86339*