



## From the President

September 2022

Autumn is coming. I can feel it in my bones. I see the school buses and the kids are back in school. This really is the time of year for a fresh start. The hot days of summer kept us chilling in the air conditioning and now the cool mornings get us heading back out onto the trails. It's good to spend time in nature. It's good for the soul.

I am just recovered from Covid and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. I know of at least three other couples who had it around the same time. Planning for the September Board Meeting has been a struggle for me. I want so much to be back out of the house, hanging out with friends, speaking face to face, and laughing. What I don't want is someone else to get sick and have to go through the isolation and quarantine. So that is why a hybrid method of the Board Meeting has come about. An indoor/outdoor/virtual meeting. Those who want to sit in the conference room can. Those who want to be a little further removed can opt for the patio. Those who can't risk anything still can be in the conversation with zoom.

Throughout my presidency, I've been navigating through getting volunteers engaged in the various projects that the Forest Service (FS) has for us and keeping volunteers safe. The struggle is real. Masks required/no masks required. High transmission rate/low transmission rate, this variation/that variation. Personally, as a volunteer myself, all I want to do is get out and do good things. For the most part, that's what many of our volunteers have been doing. Picking the opportunities that make sense to them and their situation and getting things done.

Autumn in Sedona, I just like thinking about that; volunteering in the crisp morning for something worthwhile. Hike on a deserted trail and run across some wildlife. Chill on the front porch in the evening with the chiminea, a glass of wine, and nice hubby.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> we'll be holding our Fall Board Meeting. It will be a hybrid at 9:00 am. ALL members are welcome and invited to attend either in person or virtually. There's useful information shared at these meetings and no one should be hesitant to join or think, oh that's just for the Boar. The Forest Service is there to answer member questions and provide insight into projects that may be coming up in the near future. Check your emails for the link to the zoom meeting if that is your choice.

October 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) of 2023. **ALL** of us need to update our Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) form(s) **ON or AFTER OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**. That's important because we need them signed for the next FY; the JHAs do not roll over from FY to FY. For all of our wonderful new members who just recently joined, you may not know how to log into NEON and sign them so here are the steps:

### **Log into NEON (FOF website)**

<https://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org/>

Select "Members" Scroll down to "Member Login" and select it

The "Account Login" screen appears: enter your login (first name, period, last name with no spaces) and your password

Once in, select "Volunteer" and go to the bottom to find "Review and Sign Job Hazard Analysis"

All the JHAs are there and you simply select the one that pertains to you, read it, understand it, and "Acknowledge" it. Any questions are directed to your committee chair(s).

**Committee Chairs and Volunteers** please make sure you enter all your hours for fiscal year 2022 no later than the first week of October so that we can “close out” the fiscal year.

Our Vice President, **Bev Jackson**, has stepped down suddenly as she rearranged her life and moved back to Indiana to be with family. I certainly wish her well and thank her for her service to the FOF. **Manny Romero** has graciously agreed to step into the Visitor Information Services (VIS) Chairman position (thank you).

The Officer and Director Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that three members have chosen to be put into nomination for another 3-year term: **Spence Gustav, Bob Haizmann, and Bea Logan**. I’m also pleased to announce that five individuals have agreed to be put into nomination as new Board members: **Cynthia Belowski, Peter Belowski, Cynthia Malowitz, Adrienne Pichette, and Pat Quinn**. Brian Painchaud is retiring from the Board. We truly appreciate all of his contributions...and his drone.

You will find a nomination ballot in this issue of Branching Out and 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.

The FOF Annual Membership Meeting will be held in **November 7** at the Beaver Creek Work Station. At this meeting, we’ll also hold our annual awards ceremony. The Forest Service’s Volunteer Appreciation Event to follow, starting at 10:00.

## Annie Glickstein

### Water Monitoring and Air Quality

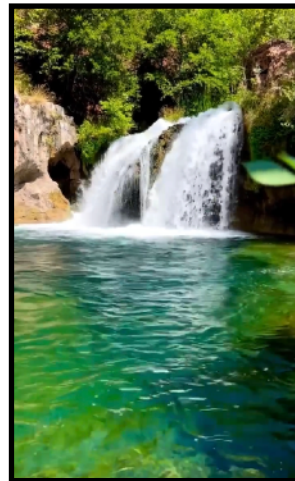
We have been busy collecting and processing water samples from Oak Creek. The recent rains have caused muddy conditions, making it a challenge to get to a couple of sites. AZDEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality) has decided to extend the monitoring sampling on Oak Creek through October, then to be restarted in May 2023.

In June, I had a chance to collect water samples with one of the scientists at Fossil Creek. This was my first time to visit the

area, as the permits are hard to get and is currently closed to the public, so it can recover from the Backbone Fire. The area is beyond beautiful, truly an oasis in the desert.

We will begin sampling at six sites in Fossil Creek after the monsoon season is over. We will continue to sample these monthly for at least a year. We plan to restart Air Quality program after the monsoon season ends.

Waterfall



Cynthia Malowitz

Fossil Creek

# Trail Patrol

September 2022

Trail Patrol remained active this summer not only with members volunteering on the local trails but also for the first time, leading TP hikes during the summer months. Thank you to Adrienne Pichette and Jon Petrescu for their leadership in June, July and August. And, hours contributed and hikes recorded by TP member were both up 2-3% year over year.

While the above was happening, the focus for 30 Trail Patrol members has been Preventative Search and Rescue – Trail Ambassadors. The last two years we have set up at Bruce Brockett Trail Head from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The objective, to reduce the number of calls to first responders for assistance from hikers heading to The Crack. Informing hikers of trail

conditions, weather concerns (HEAT), appropriate preparation for the 7-8 mile trip and offering alternatives when appropriate has been met by a positive response from the public and first responders including VSAR and SFD. This year we expanded the program to include setting up in Dry Creek Vista parking lot to help hikers heading to Devils Bridge. Through August 23, we have contributed 670 hours, talked with 6,383 hikers and redirected over 1,200 to more appropriate trails given trail/weather conditions and/or their degree of preparation. In addition to offering info and advice, we have offered aid to a number of hikers this season from a chair and shade to a lift back in a 4X4 to water and electrolytes and cooling by dousing with water in more extreme cases, most shifts

saw individuals suffer heat stress and many say heat exhaustion. Our efforts were aided this year by Nina and Mary with **Barlow Jeeps** of Sedona. They have provided us ice and then stopping by to resupply us mid-shift at Dry Creek Vista. They have made us very popular with hikers returning from Devils Bridge all summer.

Looking forward, **Margie Terrell** will be leading a hike in late Sept to Harding Springs. We are also working on fall educational opportunities including a presentation on reptiles and Trail Patrol hikes to Palatki in Sept/Oct; details to follow. Anyone interested in joining Trail Patrol or participating in PSAR/TA 2023, please contact me [dale.evans.dvm@earthlink.net](mailto:dale.evans.dvm@earthlink.net).

## Dale Evans



Dry Creek Vista



Bruce Brockett TH

# Membership

September 2022

Our membership as of August 15, 2022, is 618. Since our last newsletter, the following new members have joined Friends of the Forest: **Yelena Baykova, Jade Belzberg, Nickademus Belzberg, Mary Barlow, Margaret Connery, Michael de Koning, Jennifer Dvorak, Brenda Gay, Rich Gay, Ethan Godwin, Isaac Hernandez, Roger Mahieu, Sharon Mahieu,**

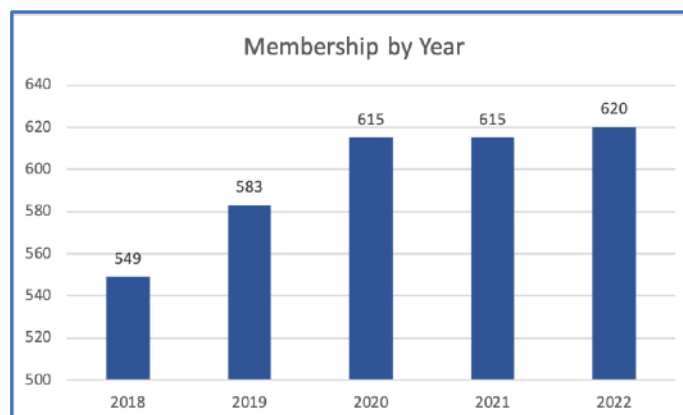
**Sue McWilliams, Danielle Nelson, Suzanne Owens, Louis Pescevic, Bob Powers, Vita Rose, Beth Schryer, Gordon Schryer, Cynthia Schulz, Nik Sivek, Dale Smrz, Harry Strong, Ballard Tanille, Joy Trowbridge, Cheryl Tucker, Kevin White, Jay Zwart, Lori Zwart.**

While growth is slow, we continue to gain new members, and look

forward to more volunteers choosing to join as a result of our New Member Event that will take place at 2:00 on Thursday, September 22. In order to accommodate what we expect to be a good turnout, this year Keep Sedona Beautiful has offered to host the event in their meeting room at 360 Brewer Road.

## Craig Swanson

		Annual	Life	Total
2022	New Members Added since our last newsletter	23	4	27
	Past Members not Renewing for 2022	67		
	Current Membership as of 8/15/2022	216	403	620
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
2020	New Members Added in 2020	52	27	79
	Past Members not Renewing for 2020	47		47
	Membership at end of 2020			615





Our volunteers have been out and about doing their thing and it's such a wide variety of projects. We have volunteers helping to feed and care for Forest Service horses, scanning "Range Improvement Records," riparian monitoring. They include exclosure monitoring, mapping, Kestrel monitoring, and so much more. **Dale Evans** has provided more information on the Kestrel Monitoring on page 6.

**Jim Manning** went out to Loy Canyon to check a nesting area, no large bird activity on any kind, not even a raven. There was no indication of any activity at the nesting area, white wash, sticks on the ledge, etc. Not Good!

Jim had a friend with him so they continued up the canyon and then up the "switchbacks" to a viewpoint.



They only saw one other woodland creature on the trail, besides them.



It was a 8.8 mile hike in total and Jim was able to put in reports of trees down and drains that needed cleaning. Not a wasted trip after all.

Let us not forget that Garry Neil is still in the midst of conducting the lichen survey in the Red Rock District (RRRD). With the assistance of **Frank Bungartz**, PhD (ASU Lichenologist) and **Janie Aryagos** (RRRD Wildlife Biologist), 920 specimens have been collected and identified.

Of those 920, 271 are different species, and of those 271, 117 are newly reported within the RRRD perimeter, 6 of which are possibly new to Arizona. There is also the possibility that two of the lichens that have been collected are new species along with one other specimen never being reported in the US.

This past year we requested loans of lichens collected within the RRRD coordinates from lichen herbaria in the United States and Europe. Those that responded include Duke, Brigham Young, University of Wisconsin, Oregon State, Kansas State, University of Oslo, Drexel University, Michigan State, University of Minnesota, Louisiana State University, University of Colorado, Boise State, and the National Herbaria of Canada. We have completed the comparisons of what they have housed in their collection to our collection. We still have a lot to do as we continue this survey, but I believe it will be very beneficial to the scientific community and the RRRD.



Lichen

Annie Glickstein

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest and most colorful falcon, and many adore kestrels for their lovely plumage and big personality. In the 1800s and early 1900s, many referred to American Kestrels as "sparrowhawks". The American Kestrel's Latin name, *Falco sparverius*, means "Falcon of sparrows," a reference to this falcon's habit of occasionally taking small passerines as prey, or insects and small lizards in the Verde Valley and Red Rocks.

American Kestrels are approximately the size of a jay, with the slender, pointed wings and long tail typical for falcons. They are approximately 9 inches long from beak to tail tip, and their wingspan is about 22 inches. Adults weigh an average of 4.1oz, or 117g. As with most other birds of prey, the female kestrel is larger and heavier than the male.

Unfortunately, this historically common little falcon has become a rare sight in many regions of North America, where populations have been **declining** for decades. In several areas the declines are

relatively steep, such as the Bird Conservation Regions for the Southern Rocky Mountains/Colorado Plateau, Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain, and New England/Mid-Atlantic based on roadside count data from the USGS Breeding Bird Survey. Why? Pollution, climate change, development, etc.

These questions highlight the need for nest box monitoring data, which offer demographic insights beyond head counts by giving us a glimpse into the kestrel life cycle. Although there are many successful nest box programs across North America, they are largely localized and isolated from each other, making it difficult to draw reliable conclusions on a large scale. In response, the American Kestrel Partnership coordinates a network of professional and community scientists who monitor nest boxes and contribute their data to a single database. With information collected in a similar manner from across the range, we can start to identify trends we hope leads to

greater understanding of what may be causing declines.

Friends of the Forest joined this effort in 2020 through the efforts of Janie Agyagos (RRRD Biologist) and the Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants Committee. Robb Gibbs (4), Judy and Dave Kennedy (3), Sharon and Dale Evans (4), Janie Agyagos (1) and Jim Manning (1) monitor a total of 13 boxes. 2020 saw nesting and three eggs in one box but unfortunately no hatchlings. Heat was suspected as a possible issue and many boxes were relocated to nearby areas with greater shade. 2021 saw nesting and 5 eggs in a box in the Rimrock area. All hatched and the young were banded by AZ Game and Fish. Four of the five fledged. 2022 saw nesting and 4 eggs in a different box in the Rimrock area. All successfully hatched, were banded by AZG&F and fledged. For more information about kestrels and the American Kestrel Partnership, visit <https://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/home>.

Kestrel in nest



Dale Evans

Leg banding





# Graffiti Removal Team

September 2022

Hello fellow volunteers,

Just a quick message about what's going on with graffiti. GRT=Graffiti Removal Team and some of the greatest people I get to volunteer with.

We currently have 99 members (who will be 100) and over 50 of those with recorded hours. Our total hours for the year so far are just over 1300. I just want to thank everyone for all the reports and

for taking care of the sites that get the most graffiti.

We are in need of a co-chair and someone to hopefully take over the committee, but don't worry I'll stay on until that GRT person shows up. **Rod Cashin** was a GRT co-chair but he got a "sign" from **Rich Spinell** and will now be taking over that role, thank you Rod for all your help.

Lastly we don't only remove paint we also apply it, we did such a

nice job at the BCWC that they are asking us to help out at Crescent Moon Ranch to help paint the exterior of the building and do some fence repair. Keep an eye out for more info on that but the tentative dates for that work are Oct 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Don't throw out those old clothes just yet.

Happy Hiking and stay safe out there.

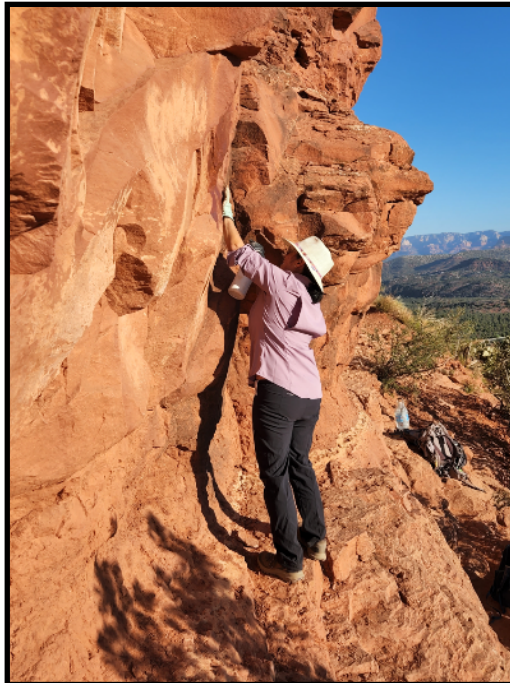
## Jerry Checchia & Chase

Ernie removing graffiti near the saddle of Cathedral Rock



Ernie DiMillo

Annette removing scratches up high on Bell Rock on her first day



Annette Bilotta

GRT in action above Slide Rock



Rod Cashin, Adrienne Pichette and Susan Birdsey

## Statistical Summary

September 2022

As we have typically done before, the chart below shows the committee hours through July in the two most recent fiscal years. Comparatives are difficult to interpret in this environment with the continuing effects of the covid

pandemic. Overall hours are up 29% with some big swings by committee. For added perspective, we have added the FY 20 hours (through July) on the right side of the chart. The current year reflects two

significant changes: (1) we have combined air quality and water sampling and (2) we have shown our new Trail Ambassador project separately.

Committee	FY22 Hrs thru July	FY21 Hrs thru July	Change In Hours	% Change	FY20 Hrs thru July
Cultural Resources	6,336	3,822	2514	66%	5,162
Graffiti Removal	1,260	1,492	-232	-16%	1,396
Interpretive Pgm	92	68	24	35%	218
River Rangers	315	75	240	320%	229
Special Projects	1,035	556	479	86%	246
Trail Ambassador	567	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	468	556	-88	-16%	246
Trail Maint & Const	1,818	1,176	642	55%	1,692
Trail Patrol	9,744	9,377	367	4%	10,217
VIS	848	283	565	200%	2,006
Water & Air Quality	207	36	171	475%	239
Wildlife/Fish/Rare Plants	2,525	2,013	512	25%	3,935
Admin/Meetings	1,877	1,246	631	51%	1,422
Total	26,057	20,144	5913	29%	26,762

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 7<sup>th</sup> of the next month. This allows us to consolidate and update the hours in each member's NEON profile in a timely fashion. This month-end (September) is the most

important one, as it will be the FINAL opportunity to report hours for FY22. So please **ensure all your hours are in by October 7, 2022**, at the very latest.

Alan Glickstein



## **Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project**

The Cultural Resources Photo Documentation team has been approached by both the NPS/Coconino Forest Flagstaff District and the Prescott Forest to assist in providing photogrammetric models of multiple historic structures targeted for preservation and restoration projects. Potentially our part of these projects may commence by early October.

The 2nd paper resulting from the "Fine Incised Line" research project was submitted recently. The paper is titled "Red Cliffs Incised: A Tradition of Fine Incised Art at Arizona's Palatki Heritage Site". The Authors, Peter Anick, Walter van Roggen and Spence Gustav are all FOF members. There is a very long acknowledgement list which are all FOF members. Spoiler alert, we claim that almost all of the fine incised petroglyphs seen at Palatki and nearby are Archaic or older. Until someone proves otherwise, we appear to have one of the largest accumulations of this type of rock art identified in North America. This paper and its predecessor last year "A Close Look at the Fine-Lined Engravings at Palatki Heritage Site" will be officially published in the 2023 American Rock Art Research Association journal AIRA. A short presentation on this project will be given in late October at the Arizona Archaeology Society Conference in Sedona.

Although we currently have no plans to do additional publications, we are continuing some of the interpretive work. If anyone is interested in spending some computer time annotating fine lines on rock art panels in the Water Catchment or Grotto, please contact **Spence Gustav** at [spencehg@yahoo.com](mailto:spencehg@yahoo.com).

## **Docent Program**

V-Bar-V viewing site renovations to complete the final phase of the long-awaited viewing

enclosure enlargement, level viewing tier, wheel chair ramp, and other grade and vegetation improvements were completed in early June. See separate item for more information about the Grand Reopening Event.

We are always in need of new docents, particularly if you spend all or part of the summer months in the Verde Valley! 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@focsedona.org](mailto:docents@focsedona.org)) for more information.

## **V-Bar-V Grand Reopening event – June 21, 2022**

The Grand Reopening / Summer Solstice event at V-Bar-V went well on Tuesday, June 21st. There was not a large crowd (40ish), but that was good. There were at least 10 current Forest Service personnel present as well as two retirees with ties to V-Bar-V. One of which was Terrilyn! The reopening "event" was held early in the morning and featured comments by **Amy Tinderholt** (Red Rock District Ranger) and **Peter Pilles** (Coconino Forest Archaeologist). Aside from gleaning a few new nuggets of knowledge from Peter we had two more distinguished speakers. Their participation was not confirmed, so it was not emphasized in the announcement for the event. The speakers were:

**Vincent Randall** – Apache Cultural Director of the Yavapai-Apache Nation

**Stewart Koyiyumptewa** – Director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

I found their comments to be both enlightening and profound. I will attempt to summarize the ones I found the most important/interesting.

-I have always tried to communicate this to visitors (and new docents), that the Heritage sites truly belong to the Hopi, Yavapai, and Apache and that the we (the Forest Service) are stewards of the sites on their behalf. Vincent and Stewart both emphasized this point.

-Even though all glyphs at V-V are attributed to the Sinagua, the site is culturally important to the Yavapai and Apache as well. With the presumption that this hold for all rock art sites in their ancestral homeland.

-Yavapai and Apache each have their long-held interpretation of the glyphs as they apply to their cultural beliefs. I have witnessed this as well at Palatki when I was fortunate to participate in "Camp Yavapai" event a number of years ago. This event is for high school age Yavapai youth and is a weeklong event led and chaperoned by various elders/leaders. It is an immersion in Yavapai history and culture. Part of that is visiting significant sites in their history/lore. The shield pictograph in the Palatki roasting pit area is the official emblem of the Yavapai-Apache nation, yet it is ~95% Sinaguan in origin with some Yavapai additions. I also heard interpretations for some of the Archaic glyphs that tie directly into their lore.

-The glyphs are very culturally important and represent "things" that are meant to never be forgotten. They are not just a footnote from the past, but a guide for the present and future. This is what I refer to as the "Living History" of the sites.

-Vincent Randall began his talk speaking Apache, then proceeded to give a brief history of the Tonto Apache (including their

time in the "concentration camps" at Camp Verde and Fort San Carlos) as well as his family history and how some Navajo people came to the Verde Valley when they were being pursued by the military. When he got to the point of talking about the significance of the rock art sites to his people, he relayed a story of how his father/uncle was awarded (for his service to the tribe) the privilege and honor by the religious leaders to create a petroglyph at a particular site.

-Specific knowledge and interpretation of the glyphs is regarded as tribal knowledge and not to be shared with outsiders. This was mentioned by both Vincent and Stewart. In Hopi, this information is held tightly in clans and not shared with other clans. This is further complicated by initiation status and society membership within a clan.

-Wariness/distrust of non-native peoples by native peoples is still very strong. Stewart talked about how "reciprocity" is a fundamental concept in Hopi and that if something is taken, then something must be given back as compensation. To reinforce this point he said that if he took a twig off of a Juniper he would have to give back. At which point he pulled out his prayer/tobacco pouch to make the point. I observed this same behavior and strongly stated concept with the Yavapai during "Camp Yavapai". Stewart's comment was that the white man takes, but seldom gives back (to individuals/groups or mother nature).

-This distrust/disdain has prevented some Hopi from visiting V-V just because of the name (Note that Palatki and Honanki are Hopi names). Stewart deems this a travesty since it is so easily accessible by Hopi traveling from the mesas to Phoenix or locations in the Verde Valley. Since the site is a very significant cultural spot, a movement is underway to have the site renamed.



September 2022

-The Hopi, Yavapai, and Apache each have their own name for the site, so which one do you choose? All three groups agree that white people could not properly pronounce any of them so there is concurrence for an English version. The current consensus is

“Heron Petroglyph Heritage Site” (the heron petroglyphs are quite prominent when you first enter the enclosure). The intent is for there to be 3 interpretive panels at the site. One each for Hopi, Yavapai, and Apache that tell why the site is important to their culture.



Stewart Koyiyumptewa



Vincent Randall

Photos by Jerry Walters



Petroglyph viewing area



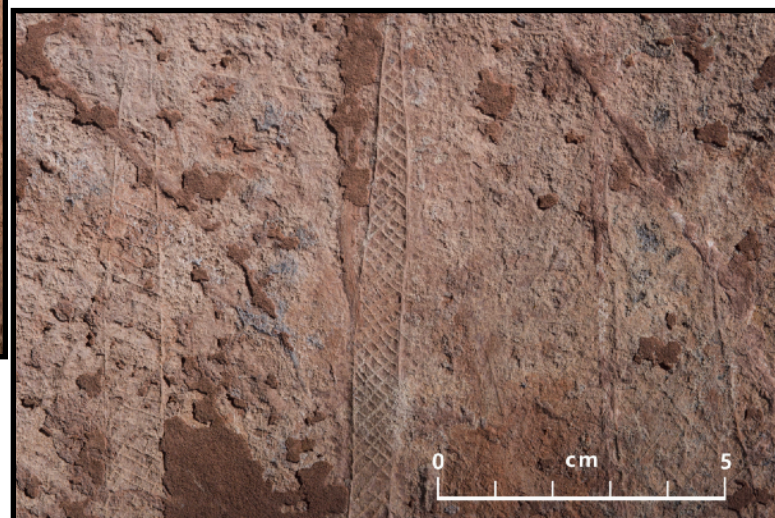
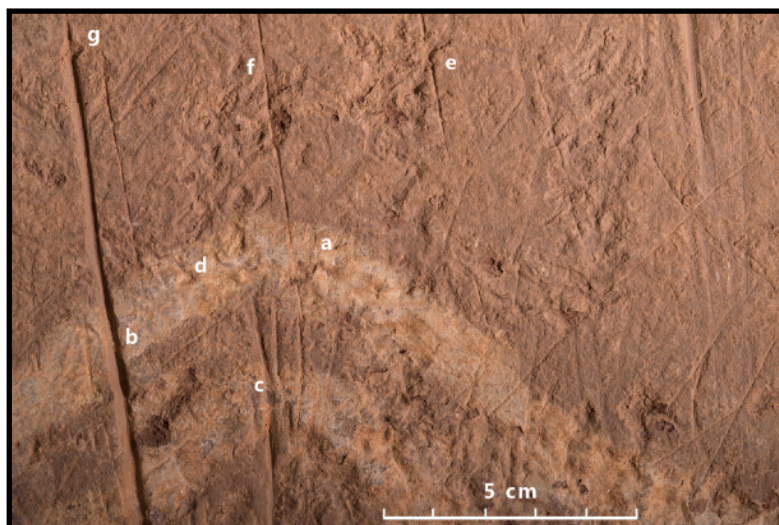
Handicapped accessible ramp





Photo and Research Team members at the V bar V opening ceremony while **Peter Anick and Walter Van Roggen** (both FOF members based in Massachusetts) were here working on the Fine Incised Line project

Photos by Spence Gustav



Examples of figures from the paper submitted showing very fine detail of what is being studied in the Fine Incised Line project





Methods and equipment used  
by the photo team

Jerry Walters  
[docents@fosedona.org](mailto:docents@fosedona.org)

## River Ranger Support

During the summer, our group is pretty inactive, but fall is coming. We expect to be transporting the Forest Service River Rangers to and from the several locations along the Verde River, down to Horseshoe Lake from October through February or March.

Looking forward to “getting the Band back together” – Jerry C., Brian P, Mike V, Dave K., Pat Q., Frank W., Marilyn P., Jim M., Warren H., and Bob B. were all

instrumental in helping to make the 2021 season a lot of fun and educational for all. As last season was a major expansion for the team, a special thanks to Frank Wirkus and Mike Vitek for guiding us to the sites in the Valley. We hope they can still join us for the 2022 season.

We are scheduled to have a new coordinator. Welcome NATE HAGAN! We look forward to working with you.

For any FOF members who would like to join us, please contact me at [riverrangers@fosedona.org](mailto: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.

Hope everyone is staying healthy.

Jerry Piepiora

## Trail Maintenance & Construction

It's been a quiet summer for the Trail Maintenance & Construction crew. As we typically do, we stopped our weekly Friday workdays at the end of May. Even with all the monsoons, our trails held up and we had no emergency work that needed to be completed. However, thanks to all the FOF members that report

trail conditions, we know there is some serious maintenance, cleanup, and tree removal awaiting our September return.

It's almost time to dig out those hardhats and work gloves as our tentative plan is restarting our weekly work after Labor Day. We hope every has enjoyed their

summer and takes full advantage of the remaining summer days. Thank you for your care and dedication to our national forest and we look forward to seeing you soon.

## Mike Boyd & Melissa Pontikes

### Tracks and Signs of Wildlife



Sunday, August 28, **Al Cornell** shared his expertise and talents at Tuzigoot National Park Visitor Center. Here is Al with his display of plaster cast tracks, scat, and skulls.

Al explained about the difference in coyote and bobcat tracks and ways to identify the difference between dog, coyote, wolf and mountain lion tracks

Hints: look for human tracks close to the dog track if there, it's not a coyote, it's a dog being walked. How do I tell that this is a gray fox not red fox track? There are no red fox in Arizona where this track was

found These and more great hints were shared by Al.

Al also regaled the visitors with stories of his experience in Search and Rescue in the Verde Valley and his encounters with wildlife on these searches. Coming face to face with a cinnamon-colored Black Bear on a trail and finding elk antler and track on another search.

Mr. Cornell encouraged all visitors to be aware of their surroundings while hiking, watching for scat, tracks and signs of the wildlife that abounds and enjoy the Forest's rich biodiversity.

Al Cornell

Jean Ober

# Dates to Remember

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 @ 9:00 AM Zoom and In person Meeting

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Member meeting

US Forest Service Ranger Station

All Members welcome

Future Board of Directors Meetings:

Annual Meeting - November 7

Volunteer Appreciation to follow at 10:00 am

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.

## Friends of the Forest 2023 Board of Directors Ballot

A link will be provided for electronic voting in a separate email, you will have the ability to write in your own candidate electronically. If you do not have access to a computer and cannot use the link, you may print and mail your ballot to: Friends of the Forest, PO Box 2391, Sedona AZ 86339 prior to the Annual Meeting on November 7 th, 2022.

FOF Bylaws require all ballots (electronic or mailed in) and write-in votes be received by the Secretary before **5 pm of the day preceding** the Annual Meeting.

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Continuing on the Board - The following Board members have agreed to serve another 3-year term:

- **Spence Gustav, Bob Haizmann, and Bea Logan**

Retiring from the Board – With our sincere gratitude for his service:

- **Brian Painchaud**

New Board Members – Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members to serve 3-year terms:

- **Cynthia Belowski, Peter Belowski, Cynthia Malowitz, Adrienne Pichette, and Pat Quinn**

The new Directors' term in office begins as soon as the election results are announced at the meeting.

Special thanks to the *Directors & Officers Nominating Committee Members: Jerry Checchia, Annie Glickstein, Spence Gustav, Melissa Pontikes, Jerry Walters, and Jennifer Young*

## Mail In Ballot

For Members who cannot use the electronic ballot. Please cast your vote by placing a check next to the candidates or by writing in the name(s) of another candidate.

☐ Cynthia Belowski

☐ Peter Belowski

☐ Spence Gustav

☐ Bob Haizmann

☐ Bea Logan

☐ Cynthia Malowitz

☐ Adrienne Pichette

☐ Pat Quinn

Write in candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

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