

From the President = Jennifer Young

Hello Fellow Friends, As I near the end of my two-year term as Friends of the Forest President I continue to be in awe of the scope, creativity, energy and accomplishments of our volunteer organization. This issue of Branching Out is devoted to sharing and celebrating just that. The FOF Board recently agreed that henceforth the December issue of the Newsletter will be a review of the year's highlights and accomplishments as well as communicate our ongoing areas of focus.

The Board also decided that the December issue will be the only printed and mailed issue of the Newsletter going forward. The other quarterly Branching Out issues will be announced via e-mail and posted on the FOF website, as they are today. We are taking action to reduce the paper, cost and manpower required for printed publications and moving affirmatively into the digital environment. This has been a request of many members and I hope that this will be convenient for all. Please keep us advised of your e-mail address changes via the new online membership renewal feature on the "Join Us" page of the FOF website. The online "membership application" form can be used for changes in contact information.

All FOF members are invited to the 9:00am December 14th Board and Membership meeting. Officers for calendar year 2017 will be appointed at that time. The meeting will be held at the Red Rock District Visitor Center rather than the usual Administration Building location. The slate of Officers for 2017: Manny Romero President, Jean Ober Secretary, Tom Cloonan Treasurer, Joe Pokorski Assistant Treasurer. Manny Romero and I have been working closely for the last twelve months and we are in capable and enthusiastic leadership hands going forward. We are actively recruiting for the Vice President position which Manny will vacate this month.

All Friends members who joined during 2016 - and members interested in learning more about the organization - please mark your calendars for a New Member Welcome Event on March 2, 2017 at 2:00pm at the Red Rock District Visitor Center. Invitations and more info will be coming in the new year from Membership Chair **Betty Parker**.

I want to thank everyone for the support, advice and friendship I have received during my tenure as President. As I have said many times to our Board Directors - you all make this job easy. I know that Manny will enjoy the same support going forward. I am greatly looking forward now to getting back to some favorite FOF activities on the trails, at the cultural sites, and joining a few of our guided hikes. I hope to see you out and about soon.

With deep appreciation,

Jennifer Young

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A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Baldauf, Andy Beeler, Al Gilson, Kevin Harding, Buck Packard, Darl Rector, Jim Wilson

A BIG WECOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Spence Gustav, Kurt Starbuck, Bob Haizmann, Beverly Jackson, Ronnie Ward, Jim Manning, Brian Painchaud, Betty Parker, Craig Swanson

Members are elected to serve a three year term on the Board.

TREASURER REPORT

In May, after many years of service our Treasurer **Rick Bauldauf** took one step back into the role of Assistant Treasurer and **Tom Cloonan** was voted in as Treasurer. In August, **Joe Pokorski** stepped forward and volunteered to take over the role of Assistant Treasurer and was voted in at the September board meeting, freeing up Rick's time to allow him to get back into more outdoor activities. **Peg Kern** has agreed to continue in her much-appreciated role as Auditor.

A major achievement for the year is the ability to pay your annual dues or make donations by credit card on the FOF website. This has been an ongoing member request and now you can. Please see the details in the Membership article in this Newsletter issue.

Have you ever wondered about the Friends' sources and uses of funds? As of November, 30 2016 we have \$47,209 in our bank accounts. A portion of this is reserved for project commitments or matching grant funds. We have \$17,782 available for new projects and ongoing operations.

In the past twelve months, we brought in \$34,394 in income. The majority of the inflow, \$19,445, was directed donations (two grants) to be passed on to specific Forest Service projects. The other major inflows were Membership dues, bringing in \$7,046 and Merchandise Sales at \$7,448 (gross revenue).

Our outflows were \$24,541 in project funds to the Forest service (grants plus FOF generated funds) and just \$5,998 in operating expenses. As an all-volunteer organization we have very low operating expense. Major internal uses of FOF funds include internet communication and website fees, printing and postage for newsletters, name tags, operational supplies and tools. You can see that our membership dues sufficiently cover our direct operating expense and leave a residual to fund projects on the Forest.

Our net surplus for the twelve-month period was \$3,855. Thank you to all our Members for your contributions.

Tom Cloonan



Renewing your membership?

We made it easier

You can now renew online and pay with PayPal or a Credit Card. Just go to the Join Us page on the Friends of the Forest website: http://www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org/Join-Us.html and follow the directions.

If you have had changes in your contact information or if you would like to volunteer in new areas, please use the Fill Out Application Form to update us. Then go to the Pay Online section to complete the process. If you have no changes, go straight to the Pay Online section, choose your membership type and hit the Buy Now button. You will be redirected to PayPal where you can use your PayPal account or any of the major credit cards for payment.

Of course, you can still pay by check. Mail it to: **Friends of the Forest, PO Box 2391, Sedona, AZ 86339.** Please add Renewal to the memo line on the check.

Questions or problems - contact: treasurer@fofsedona.org

Betty Parker

Publicity

Kudos to those who helped write articles for publication in the *Red Rock News* during the past year: **Jennifer Young, Kevin Harding, Manny Romero, Mike Ward, Janie Agyagos, and Jerry Piepiora**.

Our stories informed the public about programs they might want to attend, including our Member Welcome Event, V-Bar-V Discovery Days and interpretive programs; local fauna and wildlife, including rare species, cougars, frogs and lichens; a detailed list of easy sites to see sights; new protocols at Fossil Creek; the varied activities of our award-winning Cultural Resources Committee; honors bestowed on deserving volunteers at our Annual Meeting; and a story about the hard work done by the Graffiti Removal Committee.

Is there a story you would like to see written about a Friends of the Forest or Forest Service activity? Is there something new? Is there a topic that would benefit from greater public awareness? On the first Wednesday of every month we publish an article in the *Red Rock News* under the "Serving Sedona" banner headline. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to inform the public!

Many thanks to our FOF and Forest Service members who have helped write our diverse articles. If you have a topic you'd like to suggest or if you might be interested in writing a story, please let me know.



Tom and Terry decorating the tree

J. Porkorski

Carol Wirkus cfwirkus@msn.com

Merchandise

Stop by the merchandise table to see what is new and what is waiting for an owner, and you just might find a Christmas gift for someone or yourself. There will be some new hats and a couple winter vests. We will also be having a raffle for that beautiful red fleece blanket with the FOF logo embroidered on it. It is just waiting to snuggle up with someone to keep them warm. For \$1 you can put your name in the jar for the blanket

drawing that will take place at the close of the meeting. We are also inviting any of you who have gently used FOF clothing that you no longer use to bring it to the meeting for us to sell. Please be sure it is clean. It may provide some bargains for other FOF members. Remember that FOF embroidered wear should not be donated to thrift stores. We look forward to seeing you December 14th.

Debbie Wych and Roni Ward



Statisical Summary

End of Year Volunteer Hour Report

Here are some highlights for this past year's end of year volunteer hour report: Reported volunteer hours by individuals

2016 was a record year with 33,454.19 volunteer hours FY15 - 30,735, 2,048 hours were logged by Board members managing FOF organizational needs, 232 members reported volunteer hours in 2016

Reported volunteer hours by Committee

Cultural Resources - 8,209 hours, 24% of all hours reported Trail Patrol - 7,615 hours, 23% of all hours reported

VIS - 5,797 hours, 17% of all hours reported

TM&C - 4,802 hours, 14% of all hours reported

Special Projects - 2,390 hours, 7% of all hours reported

Graffiti - 911 hours, 3% of all hours reported

FOF Administration accounted for 6% of all hours reported

Mike Ward

October Hours Report

Cultural Resources had the second highest October with 571 hours; Trail Construction & Maintenance with 365 hours; Trail Patrol had the second highest October with 682 hours; Visitor Services had 450 hours.

Total Hours for October had 2797 hours which exceeded the old record of 2639 hours set last year.

Bill Kusner

Friends of the Forest/Forest Service Archives

I am looking to turn over the duties and looking for someone who would like to take over. This is an interesting, informative and very useful FOF volunteer position. For the past nine plus years, I have reviewed on a daily/weekly basis the following newspapers: AZ Republic, Red Rock News, (some local papers), and Sunday New York Times looking for mention of the Forest Service in our area, Red Rock Ranger Station and Flagstaff District Office.

Issues can be accidents, conflicts, fire, archaeology, etc. The original article (s)) are cut out, dated, source noted, and a copy made for our District Ranger. The original is mounted in alphabetical order in the official Forest Service book that goes into their archives on December 31st of each year.

Most of the 'work' is done at home. I do some work while at the Administration building on Wednesday afternoons. I am a 'newspaper hound' by nature and have learned a lot about issues affecting and within our Ranger District! If interested, please call me at 284-0714 or stop in the Ranger Station on Wednesday afternoons, 11:30 am - 4:15 pm.

Justine Kusner



Nichole Branton, Red Rock District Ranger thanking the Friends for their service to the Coconino National Forest

Special Projects in progress

The Cultural Resources Site Photo Team has continued with their efforts and approximately 200 public 3D visual models of rock art and rooms at Palatki, Honanki and V bar V have been uploaded to the web.

Mike Ward has created links to these models with additional information on the SedonaRedRockTrails.org website. Please visit SedonaRedRockTrails.org and explore the "Archaeology" and then "3D models" sections of the site. Several people have previously found some of these models on the web and have added them to their "collections". To date our public models have had over 2000 views. The links that are now on SedonaRedRockTrails.org include additional information about the FOF and the Red Rock District.

This project is the result of a request by Travis Bone and is ongoing. Many "private" models of non-heritage archaeological sites for documentation and evaluation by the archaeologists have also been created.

Work has also commenced on a series of short, narrated slide shows about various places in the Red Rock District. New BOD member **Craig Swanson** has written scripts and done the voiceovers for several "drafts" shows that are being evaluated by Forest Service staff. The first slide show about visiting the RRRD Visitor Center has been provided. Slide shows about the Heritage Sites and other locations are planned.

We have a use for several basic level laptop computers at the cultural sites and for several projects. If you have an old and un-needed Window XP or preferably Windows 7 (Windows system is required) laptop that can reliably work on AC power with at least a 15" screen that you are willing to donate "to the cause", please contact *Spence Gustav*. We could also use one or two independent monitors of at least 15" (larger would be better) size if available.

Spence Gustav

Ríver Patrol =

This year's river season started in November with a trip from Childs to Horseshoe Lake. As usual, it was raining, but Forest Roads 708 and 502 were in good shape. So, the River Ranger volunteer drivers did not have any problems getting staff members to Childs and driving back to the Verde station.

At Childs, volunteer **Michael Campbell** saw an old metal fence post sticking up about six inches from the ground. Concerned that it could puncture a tire, on his next trip **Campbell** brought a high-lift jack and removed the problem post.

As in the past, Horseshoe Lake was dry and full of mud and overgrown shrubs. This makes finding a good "take-out" spot more of a challenge, so **Brian Painchaud** and **Don McClimans** put in 11.5 hours.

Eradicating invasive plants along the Verde River from Beasley Flats to Childs was the goal of the second November trip. Return runs to Horseshoe Lake are important to remove snags and strainers (tree branches) from the water to make for safe boating. Staff also remove trash as they paddle to the lake.

Mike Vitek

Graffiti Removal

Friends all – as we begin our new year, I've taken a few minutes to reflect on the events of the past 12 months in graffiti removal (nothing worldly profound here – especially political). We've certainly had our share of frustrations, but many successes also. The more popular hiking destinations like Bell Rock, Cathedral, Devils Bridge, and West Fork continue to see a plethora of ongoing defacing. Fortunately, it has just been mostly scratching and not paint. Where spray paint has been reported, the locations are more remote, and require much greater effort to repair. Carrying in large amounts of water is certainly not easy and we're still looking for a few good Sherpa's.

As I've said before, the greatest assistance we continue to receive are the many field reports that come from the Friends, our own Forest Service people, Westerners, and hikers in general. Our challenge is to respond to these many reports quickly. Removing the damage as soon as possible does reduce the amount of copycat defacing. Photos and coordinates are important.

This effort does need the assistance of many. A note of thanks goes out to Mike and Jean Ober, Dave and Susan Murrill, Brian and Marilyn Painchaud, Dave Poppe, Evan Holtz, Betty Parker, Deneise Piepiora, Rich Spinelli, Ernie DiMillo, and Jerry Checchia. These have been our "regulars" wherever we need to respond.

One of the more important upgrades to our team has been the recent appointment of Gerard (Jerry the younger) Checchia as co-chairman. He has been a major contributor to our efforts since joining the Friends earlier this year. Not only is he very active, but also has gained considerable knowledge

in our practices. Jerry has shown leadership skills and is willing to do whatever it takes to keep our trails in excellent condition. He also contributes to several other committees. We are most fortunate to have Jerry in this role.

Fortunately, we continue to receive member requests to be part of the graffiti removal effort. **Steve Orr,** who is new with FOF, is now part of our team. I believe we are making a difference in preserving our unique environment.

Lastly, I want to thank the FOF for the Volunteer of Year Award. It was quite unexpected, but most appreciated. I would only change the wording slightly, however. It should read "Volunteer Committee of the Year Award".

The entire graffiti team looks forward to seeing you on the trails.

Jerry Piepiora

Chairman





Jerry Checchia doing the high work in West Fork with David and Susan Murrill, Rich Spinelli, Betty Parker, Brian and Marilyn Painchaud.

Photos by Jerry Piepiora



Slide Rock clean up included "trash" pick up by Jerry Checchia and getting a little wet by Deneise Piepiora, Jean Ober, and Jerry Checchia.

Trail Patrol

New Friends of the Forest members continue to show an interest in Trail Patrol. A warm welcome to Eddie and Penny DeJarnette, Patricia Egger, Mike Haboush, Stephen Orr, Chuck Armbruster, Peter O"Carroll and KC Jones.

Heather Shelton, an FOF member who resides in Nevada, visits Sedona annually and while she is here she likes to participate in FOF activities. Thank you, **Heather**, for taking some of your vacation time to participate in the November 9th hike.

A total of 111 Trail Patrol members have reset their JHA (Job Hazard Analysis) forms for 2016, a requirement for participating in Trail Patrol. If you have not yet completed this detail or need instructions or help navigating the website, please email me at <code>flyingpoint@comcast.net</code> and I will be happy to assist.

Please join me on any or all of the Trail Patrol member hikes for December and January, the only requirement is a current JHA. The hikes range from 3-5 miles in length and are a great way to meet other Trail Patrol members, share information, and enjoy some camaraderie. These hikes are especially helpful orienting and meeting new members to Trail Patrol.

An RSVP to flyingpoint@comcast.net or 207-415-4228 is appreciated.

DECEMBER HIKES

December 13th, Tuesday. Meet at the library at 9 AM to carpool to Mescal.

December 28th, Wednesday, 9 AM. Meet at Courthouse Vista to hike Llama by way of Baby Bell and Bell Rock Pathway.

JANUARY HIKES

January 9th, Monday. Meet at 9 AM at Cathedral Rock parking to hike Cathedral to Oak Creek and back.



E. Hackett

January 26th, Thursday at 9AM. Meet at Jordan Road Parking to hike Jordan Trail to Soldiers Pass to Seven Pools and back.

A sincere thank you for your participation in Trail Patrol and I wish you all a joyous holiday season.

Elaine Hackett

Trail Maintenance & Construction =



This tree was cut on Bear Sign Trail on Wed, Nov 30. It was 1 of 8 trees cut that day by two 5 man crews working on Bear Sign and Dry Creek Trails. Crew: Jerry Piepiora, Jerry Checchia, David Murrill, Tim Fogarty and myself.

Jim Manning



T. Fogarty

Forest Service News =

As we move into the New Year I find myself reflecting on the accomplishments, new faces, future projects and how I/we fit into the big picture. A phrase struck me this morning, and one that has been repeated many times before..." You can't know where you're going, unless you know where you've been". You see, our role here on the Red Rock District incorporates one of change and evolution. Constantly evolving to the ever-changing conditions. Change however is the one thing that remains the same and without change we don't evolve and are not forced to adapt.

There are several foundations to our mission that have stood the test of time and remain pillars of our agency, one of the most important is safety. Ultimately safety and the mitigation of hazardous conditions remains constant, a key element of our day to day operations. The evolution of safety on the Red Rock

District, especially safety as it pertains to volunteers, is without a doubt one that keeps me awake nights. Are we doing enough, is the message being heard, are our people safe, does the crew tomorrow have everything they need to operate safely, will they make it back? As we adapt to the ever-changing requests from our forest visitors, internal policies and changes of behavior in society, we must also adapt our practices in safety.

As you think about the New Year take a minute to think back about the last. Could you have done something differently last year to improve your safety this year? While we do adapt, and evolve our safety practices to our day to day operations, just know safety will always remain a constant in our program of work. Please take the time every day to ensure everything in your project is thought out and everyone on the project is aware of safety concerns. Simply talking about safety is not enough, we must practice and educate others in safety. Learning from our safety mistakes or close calls ensure we adapt new safety practices and the future success of our collective mission, caring for the land and serving people.

Have a fantastic new year and make it one to remember, but please do so safety.

Justin Loxley
Volunteer Coordinator
Forest Service
Coconino National Forest, Red Rock Ranger District
p: 928-203-7535
jdloxley@fs.fed.us
www.fs.fed.us
Caring for the land and serving people









Training Opportunity for Trail Patrol and Wilderness Trail Patrol

A training seminar for Trail Patrol and Wilderness Trail Patrol members is scheduled for January 19th, from 9Am – noon in the conference room at the Ranger Station. The program will include how to identify reportable trail conditions, a review of safety and communication protocols, training on how to convert GPS settings to UTM for reporting graffiti and other information, and a presentation on the electronic reporting tool. Committee chairs who work closely with our committee members will also present aspects of their program as it relates to Trail Patrol and Wilderness Trail Patrol.

This is the first program in two years that is specific to Trail Patrol and Wilderness Trail Patrol, and a wonderful opportunity for us learn more about the aspects of the overall Patrol Program and how we, as a committee, interface with the Forest Service and other FOF committees. A major goal of the program is to provide members with in depth knowledge of all aspects of Trail and Wilderness Patrol that will ultimately enhance our patrol experience. Please plan to attend.

Elaine Hackett

Sedona Friends of the Forest Membership Renewal 2017

Hello Friends Member:

As the year draws to a close, we can look back with pride at our accomplishments. In FY 2016 we provided a record 33,454.19 volunteer hours—equivalent to **more** than a dozen full-time Forest Service employees. We built and repaired trails, informed visitors at the Ranger Station and historical sites, conducted trail patrols, took water samples, removed graffiti, assisted River Rangers and completed special activities at Forest Service request. Through your membership, you help protect one of the most magnificent natural resources in the country. The high visitation numbers we experience today will continue to skyrocket, intensifying the impact on our treasured environment.

As a valued Friends member, we hope you'll send in your **2017** dues today and preserve your bond with Arizona's finest National Forest volunteer organization. It's easy to renew. You have two options:

Go online to www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org, select "Join Us," and follow the steps to renew, using PayPal or Credit Card. If any of your contact information has changed, please use the "Fill Out Application Form" to update us or

Just print this message, fill out the form below and mail along with your dues payment to: Friends of the Forest, Inc. P.O. Box 2391 Sedona, AZ 86339-2391

Deadline for renewal is January 1, 2017.

THANK YOU.
Betty Parker, Membership Chair (760 - 471-5010) Email: membership@fofsedona.org
Friends of the Forest Membership Dues, 2017
Name (s)
Phone E-Mail
Category: () Friend \$25 () Family \$35 () Lifetime Friend \$150
() Lifetime Family \$250 () Additional Donation \$
Your dues or donations are fully tax deductible

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



President's Award Al Gilson



Volunteer of Year **Jerry Piepiora and Ruti Lovitt**



New Volunteer of the Year **Bob Haizmann and Tom Cloonan**



Heart of the Friends Mike Ober

Special Recognition Award

Bill Kusner



Distinguished Volunteer Award **Spence Gustav** presented by **Jennifer Young and Jerry Walters**

Special Projects Award

> Marilyn Painchaud Garry Neil

COMMITTEE AWARDS



Trail Maintenance - Bill Cobb, Wayne Schwetje, Pete Malmgren, Tana Allman, Tim Fogarty, Mike Ober, Chair



Trail Patrol Chair **Elaine Hackett, Bob Little and Peg Kern.**Not pictured **John Whitley**



Interpretive Jennifer Young, Chair, Chris Weld and JK Lovelett (not pictured)



Michael Campbell and Al Cornell, Chair, Water Sampling



Bob Beltz, Tom Cloonan, Peg Kern, Ed Hodges, Jerry Walters, Cultural Resources Chair. Not pictured Marilyn Painchaud, Paul Cooley, Ruti Lovitt, and Paul Schwartz



Graffiti Removal Chair **Jerry Piepiora with Betty Parker**, **Deneise Piepiora and Jerry Checchia** (not pictured **Evan Holtz**)

Not available for pictures

River Patrol:

Don McClimans, Brian Painchaud

Visitor Information:

Barry Aronowitz, Peggy Aronowitz, Dee Chadwick, Dan Dunn, Butch Greathouse, Norm LaDuke, Marge Larson, Doug Madison, Sharon Madison



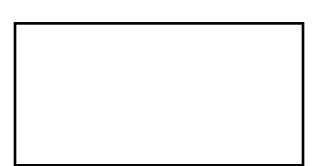
Friends of the Forest

PO Box 2391 Sedona, AZ 86339-2391

Helping to protect

National Forest Land





IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday December 14, 2016 9:00 AM - Visitor Center Conference Room (for the December meeting only)

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

February 22, 2017 May 3, 2017 September 13, 2017 December 13, 2017

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.