



Branching Out

Friends of the Forest Sedona

From the President — Jennifer Young

IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents Letter, Jennifer
Young, Page 1

Cultural Resources, Jerry
Walters, Page 2 - 3

Webmaster, Mike Ward
and Bob Haizmann, Page
3 - 5

Membership, Manny
Romero, Page 5

Merchandise, Debbie
Wych, Page 6

Trail Patrol, Elaine
Hackett, Page 6

Publicity, Carol Wirkus,
Page 7

Graffiti, Jerry Piepiora,
Page 8

Visitor Information, Jim
Wilson, Page 9

Trail Maintenance, Mike
Ober, Page 10 - 11

Hello Friends and a glad greeting to Fall season!

It did not seem that FOF volunteer activity slowed much this past summer, with ongoing support to Red Rock District visitors and many projects continuing during the warm months. Our efforts will likely assure that we reach a new record in FOF volunteer hours for the federal fiscal year 2016 ending on September 30.

All Friends members are welcome at our Board and Members meeting on September 14 at 9:00 at the Red Rock District Administration Building. Come early to meet other members and committee leaders. Learn what is going on in the organization and hear updates from Forest Service personnel.

The FOF 2016 Annual General Meeting will be Saturday October 15 at 10:00 at the Beaver Creek Work Center. Our many new members will find this to be a great occasion to connect with others in the organization. We will be conducting our annual vote for Board Director candidates. The Annual Meeting is also the occasion to acknowledge individual members with committee and special awards. The FOF meeting is followed by a volunteer appreciation event hosted by the Forest Service. District Ranger **Nicole Branton** will review the highlights of volunteer contributions on the District, followed by a picnic lunch prepared by our Forest Service colleagues. Beaver Creek Work Center is a delightful and historic location for this gathering. Please join us on the grass under the giant cottonwoods again this year.

In this newsletter you will find a mail-in ballot for the Friends Board of Directors. Election of one third of our Board to a three-year term takes place each year at this time. The ballot is to be used if you are not able to come to the Annual Meeting and vote in person. The Officer and Director Nominating Committee is pleased to present a slate of seven new Directors and two returning Directors. New nominees are **Bob Haizmann, Beverly Jackson, Jim Manning, Brian Painchaud, Betty Parker, Craig Swanson and Ronnie Ward**. Returning nominees are **Spence Gustav and Kurt Starbuck**. Retiring from the Board in this cycle are individuals with deep history and contributions to the Friends: **Rick Baldauf, Andy Beeler, Al Gilson, Kevin Harding, Buck Packard, Darl Rector and Jim Wilson**. I am so grateful for the work of these members in founding, building and sustaining the Friends of the Forest through the years.

I would like to remind all of the committee chairs to review the volunteer hours to make sure all are entered for the end of the fiscal year. October 1 ushers in 2017 fiscal year and with that all of our active members will need to update their committee's JHA. If you need assistance, please contact your committee chair for instructions.

I hope to see many of you at our Board meeting September 14 and our Annual Meeting on October 15. It is a great opportunity to meet other members and hear from the Forest Service staff.

A Brief History

*"The Cultural Resources Committee ("Palatki Warriors") was formed in Sep. of 1995 at the request of the FOF President **Marylee Dunning**. She had approached me in Aug. and asked if I would Chair this new committee, so I made a pitch for members at the FOF Aug 1995 meeting which was held at the Fire house in West Sedona. This initiative was started by Forest Service Archaeologist Marietta Davenport, who had been confronting the problem of graffiti at Palatki. The Committee held its first meeting at Palatki in Sep., 1995 and signed on the following FOF members: **Sherman Loy, Bob Erickson, Barbara Sturgis, John Sturgis, Toni Raymond, Ruth Cornell, Al Cornell**. We started out by having someone at the site almost every day, from 0800hrs thru 1600 hrs. for a year, during which time we gave out info and counted heads. And, more members were joining us. Although the sign-in register showed a visitation of around 1800 a year, our head counting demonstrated that the site had been receiving around 15,000 visitors a year -- quite a surprise to Marietta Davenport. Due to this high level of visitation and the importance of Palatki, improvements were quickly made to the parking lot, a six-panel handout was developed, a gate installed at the entrance, USFS Rangers started living in the Palatki house and Palatki became the second site in the United States to be designated as a Fee-Demo site." Courtesy of **Al Cornell***



S. Gustav

Thus began the important work of your committee. The team has had an active membership of 27 (2012) to 45 (2007) individuals annually and have contributed 2,100 to 4,300 hours annually. Another long standing activity of the committee has been assisting with the coordination and staffing of the annual Archaeology Discovery Days event. This weekend long event was originally held at Palatki but has been held at V-Bar-V for the past 10+ years. In addition to these standing activities, the committee has been involved in numerous short and long term *Special Projects*. The most notable and currently active projects are the Photo Digitization Project and the Cultural Site Photo Documentation project. The digitization project has been a small team of 3-5 dedicated individuals while the photo documentation project has ranged from 12-18 members. This team contributed 1,690 hours in FY 2015 and for FY 2016 has contributed 2,880 hours through July!! In addition to standard photography, this team has ventured into the frontier of 3D modeling of the ruins and rock art panels. The level of detail that can be obtained is incredible!



S. Gustav

Accolades

These long years of effort and the value provided to the Forest Service has not gone unnoticed. Travis Bone (Red Rock District Archaeologist) nominated the Cultural Resources Committee (http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/gaac_awards_2016.html) for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) 2016 Governor's Archaeology Commission's "Award in Public Archaeology" Private/Non-Profit category. *"Awards in Public Archaeology are presented to individuals and/or programs that have significantly contributed to the protection and preservation of, and education about, Arizona's non-renewable archaeological resources."* I was proud to receive this award on behalf of the committee at an awards luncheon held in Phoenix this past June.

This award is a testament to the importance of the work that the Cultural Resources Committee does for the Forest Service, the dedication of the many men and women who have served on the committee for the past 20+ years, and the founders of The Friends who created the committee as one of their first acts.

Photo Digitization Project

The project to digitize and catalog the historical/archaeological 35mm slides and prints for the Coconino National Forest continues in Phase 3 of the project. The slide portion of the project was completed in 2012. Work still continues on the print portion of the project. To date, we have processed 43,927 (68%) of 67,442 print images! Phase 3 entails transcribing the hand written comments, from the margins of the slides and back of the prints, into a "photolog" database (MS Excel). This phase is by far the largest in terms of hours required for completion. We are 73% complete for the total project. The skills required to be a member of this team include a general comfort with using a Windows based PC, entering data into a spreadsheet, using an image (i.e. photo) viewer, and attention to detail. Training and hands-on work sessions will be provided.



S. Gustav

Please consider volunteering for this project. You do not need to be a docent to provide great value to this project.

If you are interested in helping with this project, or would like more information, please contact **Jerry Walters** at fofdocats@gmail.com.

Cultural Site Photo Documentation Project

As if there were not enough sites to be photographed and recorded by standard means, the team has ventured forth into new frontiers by undertaking the creation of 3D models of the larger public sites (Palatki, V-Bar-V, & Honanki) as well as several larger sites that are not advertised to the public. Creation of these models requires a strict regimen of photography, post processing of the individual images, and using specialized software on a very high power workstation to combine the individual images into the 3D model. The models can take 10 hours to several days of non-stop processing to complete. The goal is to host the public site models on the FOF web server (www.sedonaredrocktrails.org) and provide additional information about the general archaeology of the Verde Valley, specific information about the sites, specific information about the models, and information on how to navigate/manipulate the models. We expect the Forest Service cultural site web pages to link to the FOF web pages.

Congratulations to **Spence** and his dedicated and energetic team!!

The site photography project still has several years of work ahead. If you are interested in helping with this project, or would like more information, please contact **Spence Gustav** at spencehg@yahoo.com.

Docent 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 (fofdocats@gmail.com) for more information.

Jerry Walters



S. Gustav



S. Gustav



S. Gustav

Webmaster

JHA Signature Renewals

This is an important reminder to everyone who actively participates as a forest volunteer. Beginning **October 1st**, everyone participating in a volunteer activity once again needs to renew their JHA digital signatures using the link on the FOF website. In the event of an injury, this signature is required to be eligible to be covered under the forest service workman's compensation insurance.

Hospitals are required to submit claims to workman's compensation for all work (volunteer) related injuries and should not submit the claims to personal healthcare providers. To avoid out of pocket medical costs, please be sure to complete a JHA form with your digital signature for every Forest Service activity that you are involved with.

On the last day of September, I will make a historical archive of the 2016 digital signature sheets and purge all of the signature information in the Google Doc. For those committee chairs that requested a link to the document to check on their committee member's compliance, that link will still be valid.

As the Forest Service updates the JHA forms, I will place the new ones on our website to stay current. The JHA signature page on the FOF website is password protected. If you need to be reminded of the password, do not hesitate to contact me at 19ward48@gmail.com.

Mike Ward

OCTOBER 1, 2016
JHA SIGNATURE
RENEWAL

ALL VOLUNTEERS NEED
TO UPDATE THE JHA
FOR THEIR COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES

Trail Patrol Documentation Update

Friends of the Forest Trail Patrol volunteers serve an important role for the Forest Service and for visitors to the Red Rock Ranger District. They collect trail use information including the number of hikers, bikers, horseback riders, dogs off leash and pounds of garbage removed. They also note key abnormal conditions concerning graffiti, wildlife, trail work and signage. This year through July, volunteers have logged 6300 hours patrolling the Red Rock district.

An improved data collection and reporting system has recently been implemented to support Trail Patrol efforts. Also a system is now available to support the newly established Wilderness Patrol. This development was a team effort of **Bob Haizmann, Elaine Hackett and Bob Kenney**, all volunteers with Friends of the Forest, and **Justin Loxley**, Forest Service Volunteer Coordinator. There were several objectives for this work.

Make it easier to log volunteer patrol hours and observations. We previously used forms to log volunteer hours and trail observations and used e-mail to communicate special observations. These are now consolidated into one form. In the new form one reporting hiker enters the information for all hikers. Hiker's names and trail names no longer need to be typed. Instead they are chosen from a drop-down menu of names. This eliminates the reoccurring issue of multiple names for the same person or trail, which consumed time to correct in the monthly reports. The new system now also supports group hikes to multiple trails. Up to 5 hikers and 4 trails can be entered into one form.

Improve communications of special observations including graffiti, wildlife, trail work and signage. As soon as special observations are entered into the form, e-mails are automatically sent to the people managing the issues within Forest Service and Friends of the Forest. No longer is there the need to manually send e-mails. Now all special observations are stored in a database.

Improve analysis of data and observations. All the new and historical data now automatically accumulates in one database, so that deeper analysis of issues can be performed and assist in managing the Red Rock District. The system will aid in answering questions like: a) how many hikers were observed over spring break in a specific area, b) which trails have the most frequent occurrence of low flying helicopters, c) where are the locations of all trails with high use, in need of repairs, with wildlife, or with graffiti, d) which trails or areas have a need for increased Trail Patrol coverage and during what times.

Monthly and annual reporting of volunteer hours has been automated to reduce work of the trail patrol chairman and improve reporting accuracy.

Knowledge of Red Rock Ranger District's key monitored conditions at the Forest Service's fingertips. Forest Service people have little time to assemble and sort data or to customize reports and graphs within spreadsheets. With the new system they can simply choose the time frame to be analyzed, for instance spring break of 2016. Several reports, graphs and maps are then automatically generated and available on the web. The report is a table of all hikes logged over the selected time period. The graphs show the trends for selected observations over time. The location of the hikes for a selected time period are automatically displayed in Google Maps. By clicking the hike location on the map all observations for that hike are listed. The map can help identify clusters of issues that might be better managed as a whole rather than individually. Other reports can easily be created from the database as the need arises.

A new Wilderness Patrol data logging and reporting system is also in operation. The system includes all the functions discussed above. Since the rules for visiting the wilderness are more stringent, additional observations are also logged, with

Interpretive Program

Our interpretive activities will return in mid-September and into October. The new calendar will be posted on the FOF website shortly.

Check the website for these details:

Birding Walks led by **Kevin Harding**,

Geology Hikes with **Chris Weld**.

Photo Walks with **JK Lovelett**.

Later in the season we will offer:

Nature Walks with **Kevin Harding**

Ethnobotany Walks with **Roy Julian**.

Call the Visitor Center to register at 203-2903 or stop by.

We welcome Friends members with particular interests or background to offer a First Friday talk at the Visitor Center.

The Forest Service is currently setting the lecture program for coming months. In recent months Friends members presented talks on night sky photography, local wildflowers, documentation of archaeology sites, lichens of the Red Rock District, and more.

If you wish to offer a talk or guided walk, contact:

Jennifer Young at 284-0016

or

Bob Beltz at 554-4327

special focus on impact to solitude, vital to the wilderness experience. These include illegal bikers, off-trail hikers, large groups, noise, drones, and low flying helicopters.

As with the previous system, data is logged via web enabled forms that can be displayed through any computer and internet browser. These are available from the FOF website under Member Volunteer Administration.

Bob Haizmann



YOU ARE INVITED

OCTOBER 15

10:00 AM Friends of the Forest Annual Meeting

11:00 am Forest Service Volunteer Appreciation Event

Noon luncheon

Beaver Creek Work Station

RSVP or questions contact Justin at jdloxley@fs.fed.us

Membership

Recruiting and retention are the cornerstones of a vibrant organization. Despite some record-setting heat this summer, our membership continues on an upward path.

On behalf of the Friends, I extend a warm welcome to 18 new members who have joined since our May newsletter.

Our new colleagues are: **Helena Bacellar; John and Bev Black; Chuck and Michaelyn Boyle; Peg Cook; Jerry and Liz Checchia; Chuck Coombs and Elisa Rios; Tom and Liz Gregg; Joe Pokerski and Terry Orlick; Kenneth Root and Kay Kunert; Jim Walters; Carol Young.**

Helena, John and Bev all joined as Life and Family Life Members.

Renewals moved forward at a slow but steady pace. In a first for the Friends, renewal letters were distributed electronically in mid-November, with a reminder notice early this year, then a 2nd reminder in April. Membership renewal forms were also included in the February and May issues of Branching Out.

A final notice was sent by regular mail in May to those members who had yet to renew. By this summer, a total of 172 members had renewed their membership; 72 did not renew and were dropped from the roster in August.

Only half this number were dropped last year, so our experiment with electronic notifications will continue to be fine-tuned moving forward.

Manny Romero

SETTING NEW RECORDS IN 2016

By Bill Kusner

Volunteer hours

October 1, 2015 to July 31,
2016

29,048

Committee Hours:

Cultural Recourses:

6721

Trail Maintenance:

4201

Trail Patrol:

6321

Visitor Information:

4935

Last year totals

24,550

Merchandise

Merchandising has five new sun shirts in stock that will be available at the September meeting. I stopped at the Columbia Outlet store in Anthem while returning from a trip and hit a great sale. Not only was the original price discounted, but the discounted price was also reduced for the sale. There are three shirts for women in S, M, and L, and for men there are two shirts in sizes L and XXL. We still have patches, whistles, Sedona CD's and other clothing to choose from. Let us know of other things you would like to have us get, and we will do our best to have them by the October meeting. We do not take credit cards, so either cash or checks are accepted.

Suzie Dunn, past merchandising chair, will be filling in for both of us at the September meeting.

Debbie Wych and Roni Ward



D. Wych



D. Wych

Trail Patrol

In spite of record high temps this summer, Trail Patrol members were a consistent presence on the trails. Thank you to all who braved the heat and covered the trails, assisting tourists, taking census, and monitoring trail conditions.

Several new FOF members joined Trail Patrol this summer. A warm welcome to **Chuck Combs, Elisa Rios, Trish DeGuzman and Jim Walters**.

An enhanced electronic Trail Patrol reporting format went into effect September 2nd. Changes include drop down menus for names of hikers and trails hiked, the recording hiker entering the names of other Trail Patrol hikers when 2 or more members hike together, and automatic forwarding of trail observations and maintenance needed to the appropriate Forest Service recipient. The new format simplifies the reporting process and also provides a broader data base for the Forest Service to access in managing the Red Rock District. Any questions or assistance needed can be addressed to me at flyingpoint@comcast.net or you may call me at 207-415-4228.

With autumn upon us, Trail Patrol group hikes will resume. These hikes are open to all Trail Patrol members, and are an excellent way to meet other Trail Patrol members, share experiences and tips, orient new members, and build camaraderie. I hope you will consider joining me on any or all of the hikes. To reserve a space, please RSVP me at flyingpoint@comcast.net, or 207-415-4228.



OCTOBER GROUP HIKES

Tuesday, October 4th, 8:30AM

Meet at Jordan Rd parking lot to hike Cibola, Jordan loop. Distance, under 2 miles round trip.

Friday, October 28th, 8:30AM

Meet at Little Horse to hike to Chicken Point and back. Distance, about 3 miles round trip.

NOVEMBER GROUP HIKES

Wednesday, November 9th, 8:30AM

Meet at Courthouse Vista Parking to hike Courthouse Loop. Distance, about 4.5 miles round trip.

Monday, November 28th, 8:30

Meet at the library in West Sedona to carpool to Long Canyon and hike a portion of Long Canyon. Distance, about 3 miles round trip.

I look forward to hiking with you and thank you for all you do on behalf of FOF and the Forest Service.

Elaine Hackett

Cougars and lichens and frogs, oh my! We must be somewhere over the Red Rocks rainbow! On the first Wednesday of every month we have an article in the *Red Rock News* under the “Serving Sedona” banner headline. This is a great way to inform the public about Friends of the Forest activities and Forest Service topics.

This year our January story, written by **Jennifer Young**, provided information about the interpretive programs. The *Red Rock News* titled her story “Animals Don’t Need Goggles for Night Vision.” If you haven’t attended any of our interpretive programs, do plan to come to the Visitor Center for at least one this fall--you’ll be glad you did!

In February **Kevin Harding** wrote an interesting story about searching for cougar tracks in the National Forest. He enjoys the detective work it takes to gain a better understanding of the lives of wild critters. This year he found two sets of cougar tracks.

Our March story was authored by **Manny Romero**, with the headline “Friends are Always Looking for More.” Manny invited readers to attend our March Welcome Event to discover how volunteering with the Friends can enrich your life. In April we informed readers about the new “Guide to Easy Viewing of Red Rock Vistas.” This helpful handout, created by FOF members, provides detailed information about places you can easily get to that have great views. It’s a wonderful resource when you have a limited amount of time or when your group includes children or people with limited mobility.

“A Fungi You Can Take a Lichen to” was our May article, written by **Jennifer Young**. For the first time ever, the Red Rock District featured Lichen Appreciation Week, including a display of local lichens and a presentation by lichenologist and FOF volunteer Garry Neil. Lichens are fuzzy or scaly stuff that grows on rocks, trees and even soil. Tired of getting up early to ensure entrance to the beautiful Fossil Creek Recreation Area? Our June article, written by **Mike Ward and me**, informed the public about the new reservation system that guarantees entrance and a parking spot.

Kudos to our FOF Cultural Resources Committee! Our July story praised this hard working group for winning the 2016 Arizona Governor’s Award for Public Archaeology in the private/nonprofit category. This prestigious award recognizes the significant contributions of the Cultural Resources Committee, including docent staffing at Palatki and V-Bar-B archaeological sites, digitizing the Coconino National Forest’s 100,000-photo collection, and other activities.

Did you know there are five known pairs of nesting bald eagles in the Verde Valley, or that the DDT pesticide caused the decline of peregrine falcons? Our August article, written by **Janie Agyagos and me**, talked about how our local birds and bats are threatened and the September article, continued the theme of rare animals, but this time we wrote about leopard frogs. The frogs “drink” water and absorb important electrolytes like sodium and potassium through the skin rather than the mouth. The chytrid fungus threatens frog populations by making their skin too thick to absorb these important electrolytes, causing the heart to stop beating. The chytrid fungus can wipe out an entire frog population in a matter of weeks.

Many thanks to our FOF and Forest Service members who have helped write these diverse articles. If you have a topic you’d like to suggest or would like to write a story, please let me know.

Carol Wirkus



J. Ober

These past four months have proven to be both challenging and rewarding for those of us attempting to keep our trails free of graffiti. As someone told me when I took over as chairman – you will never lack for something to do. How right he was!

The 25 or so active members of this team are continually amazed at the amount of new “I love me” scratching we find and are reported on a weekly basis. During these hot summer months, our ranks are depleted somewhat, but we have managed to keep an active schedule. Most often the reports consist of a single sighting, usually rock scratching. Occasionally, it involves magic markers and various kinds of paint not only on rocks, but also on trail signs.

Most importantly, we are most fortunate to have enthusiastic volunteers who always respond to our bi-weekly outings and are creative in determining the best methods to remediate a problem.

In recent months we have been experimenting with a new spray, which is easier to apply and requires less water for rinsing. Adding these new “Safety” sprays to our inventory along with the “Elephant Snot” and the usual sandpaper, wire brushes, etc., gives us an even greater arsenal of tools. And, of course, we are appreciative of **Nori Thome’s** artistic abilities in covering the graffiti on patina without surface abrasion.

The most popular locations continue to be: Bell Rock, Devils Bridge, Cathedral Rock, Submarine Rock, Slide Rock, and, of course Fossil Creek. As I commented in the previous issue, we continue to hope that as visitor awareness of NO graffiti is raised, more of those hiking the trails will respect the environment. This is our greatest tool. We continue to receive words of thanks from those who observe us working at these several sites.

I particularly want to thank **Evan Holtz, Marilyn Painchaud, Deneise Piepiora, David Poppe, and our newbie – Jerry Checchia**. Each of these members has contributed over 20 hours to our effort over the past 4 months. Year to date, the members of the graffiti removal committee have been in the field over 800 hours!

My email is jerryep@suddenlink.net. Please feel free to use that anytime directly or through the “Friends of the Forest – Sedona” website. The entire graffiti team looks forward to seeing you on the trails.

Jerry Piepiora



J. Piepiora



J. Piepiora



J. Piepiora

During these past summer months all has been well at the visitor center. Our “slow” season seemed more robust than usual, averaging about 750 – 800 visitors a day over the last four months – not too shabby for those seemingly endless days of sweltering heat. Even with the temporary loss of our seasonal volunteers, **Noreen Lisowski** was able to successfully manage a full-shift schedule with virtually no vacancies or service disruptions.

Visitor center summer “show and tell” programs were widely advertised and so they solicited interest from both visitors and locals alike. The varied educational and entertaining events included two crowd-pleasing snake exhibits (on Memorial Day and July 4th weekends), and a full day summer star party with solar viewing in June. Occasional hummingbird hand feeding events were hosted by **Debbie Wych** and **Tori Marshall**, and drew in many local participants as well as surprised and enthused visitors. In celebration of Earth Day the Forest Service hosted the acclaimed Birds of Prey exhibit, featuring a rescued bald eagle together with a Peregrine falcon and several varieties of hawks..



Bald eagle and handler at Birds of Prey exhibit
Earth Day 2016



Photos by J. Wilson



Debbie Wych
hand feeding a hummingbird



Daniel Dunn
with a California Kingsnake

Not to be over-looked were several First Friday programs conducted in the visitor center conference room. In May, **Garry Neil** gave a well-received presentation on liken and in August, **Spence Gustav** talked about his ground-breaking 3-D documentation of ancient Sinaguan sites. And it would be remiss to not mention Smokey's on-site birthday party also held in August, with staff and visitors celebrating his ageless 72 years with cake and ice cream.

Finally, six new VIS volunteers were brought on board after attending a training class in July, followed up by shadowing sessions. As usual, the class was conducted jointly with the Sedona Chamber of Commerce visitor center for the purpose of collectively training our new volunteers. The new committee members are **Joe Pokorski, Terry Orlick, Bob Chadwick, Richard** and **Judy Berg**, and **Kay Kunert**. Together, they will help augment our schedule with mid-day shifts added to cope with growing visitor traffic as we head into a predictably busy fall season. As this is my final newsletter article, together with **Noreen** I wish to once again thank all of our dedicated volunteers for enriching the public's Sedona experience.

Jim Wilson



T. Fogarty
Mojave Rattlesnake

Justin Loxley, Volunteer Coordinator, Coconino Forest Service invited the Friends to participate in a major project to rehab Crescent Moon Ranch. A new patio and walkway were part of the plan and Trail Maintenance and Construction were asked if they could assist with this. A TM&C crew of 11 volunteers spent 272 hours over the course of 12 days to completed a sidewalk in the front of the Crescent Moon Ranch cabin and a patio behind the garage. First the team had to excavate the area for both the sidewalk and the patio. Next came the spreading and tamping of the AB base, then we spread and leveled the sand. The final set was to cut, fit and level the flagstone. The Crescent Moon Ranch Project was unusual in that we worked for 10 days straight, except weekends and completed in time for the opening on May 17. We had several people who had construction experience with this type of project, chief of whom was **Al Gilson** who gave us a great start. The other volunteers were **Ernie DiMillo, Paul Ward, Wayne Schwetje, Tim Fogarty, Pete Malmgren, Susan Murrill, David Murrill, Sam Serrill, Jean Ober and Mike Ober**. This was the largest project I have been part of in TM&C and the result was something to be proud of.

As I prepare to step down from the Chair of TM&C, there are several people that I want to recognize and thank for their assistance they have provided:

Jim Manning and crew remove downed trees which always are an ongoing challenge in the wilderness areas and throughout the RRRD.

Sam Serrill and crew keep our trails signed and marked with cairns. A large challenge is replacing the stolen and damaged signs throughout the district.

Kurt Starbuck, in addition to working trails when he's not traveling, also does the record keeping for the TM&C. He also gathers the trail work activity and reports back to the Forest Service. He loves moving and lifting large rocks.

Ernie DiMillo is transitioning to the TM&C Chair this October. Ernie has been a key member of TM&C for several years.

I've been a member of TM&C for 5 years and it has been a blast working with this crew. We have a lot of fun helping to maintain this beautiful sand box, the Red Rock Ranger District! We've maintain trails from the switch backs in Oak Creek Canyon, Wilderness Areas and throughout Sedona. I want to thank all the volunteers who have made working with the TM&C so much fun, especially those who turn out every week. See you next Friday!

Mike Ober



Wayne Schwetje and Tana Allman carried tools to the saddle of Cathedral Rock! T. Fogarty



Culvert installation on Allen's Bend trail!

E. DiMillo



CRESCENT MOON RANCH REHAB
Building flagstone path to the cabin



Photos by M. & J. Ober

No power tools, only shovels, picks, wheelbarrows and hand tampers were used. Rock chisels and hammers were used to shape the flagstones which were hand carried and placed by the crew



Ramp built for the wheelbarrows of AB and sand, as well as flagstones moved to the patio



Crescent Moon Ranch Patio
ready for guests to enjoy!





Friends of the Forest

PO Box 2391
Sedona, AZ 86339-2391

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Sedona, AZ
Permit No. 6

Helping to protect

National Forest Land



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday September 14, 2016 9:00 AM - Ranger Station

FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting

All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

October 15, 2016

December 14, 2016

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.