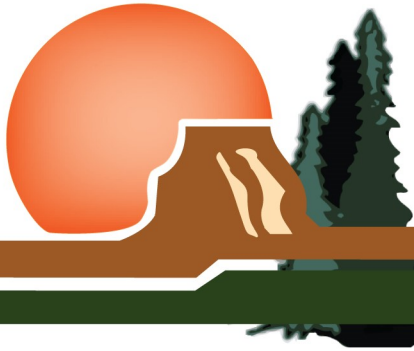


May 2016



Branching Out

Friends of the Forest Sedona

From the President — Jennifer Young

Hello Friends,

This has turned out to be a mighty busy winter and spring season for the Red Rock District! And Friends members have shown up in force to contribute to the needs of peak visitor season, yearly cycles of trail maintenance and Forest resource support, as well as a wide variety of new or special requests from the Forest Service. Handling of record volume at the Visitor Center, heavy visitation at the cultural sites, special graffiti removal missions, launch of new programs in Wilderness Areas and Fossil Creek - to name just a few of the contributions of Friends members in recent weeks. Let's remember to thank one another as we grow and diversify this important service to our public lands!

Please join us at the upcoming May 4 Board and Membership Meeting at 9:00 in the Administration Building adjacent to the Visitor Center. This year we will forego a summer meeting as an experiment with a streamlined meeting schedule. So the next Friends meeting will not be until September 14th. I continue to hear from FOF members that they learn a lot about what is going on in Friends of the Forest and in the Forest Service at these meetings. Great snacks as well!

Recent FOF organization developments include the identification of members who are willing to take on leadership tasks for a period of time. Rotation and renewal of these roles is vital to the Friends. At the May meeting, the Board will act on an Officer appointment: **Tom Cloonan** as Treasurer, replacing long serving **Rick Baldauf**. At the Committee level, **Jerry Piepiora** is replacing **Mark Munsell** as Graffiti Removal Committee Chair. In the administrative realm, **Bob Haizmann** has come forward to assist **Mike Ward** with our website maintenance and development. **Betty Parker** is ready to take up the Membership Chair role as **Manny Romero** moves toward his transition to FOF President. **Marilyn Painchaud** is leading the new Fossil Creek Wilderness air quality monitoring project. Check out this web link to see the details of this project and an example of new web tools available to support our work: <http://cleanair.fofsedona.org>. Please read on to the newsletter Committee and Project reports for updates on other FOF activities!

Lastly, I want to highlight the work and results related to training programs for our members. A recent survey of new FOF members indicated keen interest in a variety of specialized trainings that FOF experts are willing and able to offer to other members. Wilderness skills, map and compass use, local geology, archeology, wildlife, native plants identification and uses -- have been presented in recent member-only training programs. The skills, expertise and passions that FOF members have to share is part of what excites me about my affiliation with Friends of the Forest. Speaking of passions, don't miss **Garry Neil's** presentation on "Liking Lichens" on May 6th 11:00 at the Visitor Center, and the Forest Service first ever "Lichen Appreciation Week" April 29 - May 8, also at the Visitor Center -- made possible by the interest of a Friends of the Forest member. More to come!

With Gratitude to All,


Jennifer Young

Membership

On behalf of the Friends, I extend a warm welcome to our five new members who have joined since February. Our new colleagues are: **Richard and Judy Berg, Silas Silva, and John and Windy Whitley.** Silas has joined as a Life Member. New in December were **Martin and Robin Hardy** as Family Members.

Renewal letters were distributed electronically in mid-November and a renewal membership form was included in our last newsletter. To those who haven't renewed yet, we hope you will continue as a Friends member.

We sincerely value your association with us and encourage you to extend your membership today by mailing your payment and the form to our treasurer at: Friends of the Forest, P O Box 2391, Sedona, AZ 86339-2391

	Friends of the Forest Membership Dues
Name (s) _____	
Phone _____ E-Mail _____	
Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____	
Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Friend \$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation \$ _____	
<i>Your dues or donations are fully tax deductible</i>	

If you have questions regarding membership, please give me a call at 928-380-3421.

Manny Romero

Trail Patrol

The last of the scheduled Trail Patrol hikes for this season took place on April 21st and, as with previous hikes, those attending enjoyed the camaraderie, shared experiences, and exchange of Trail Patrol techniques. Scheduled hikes for Trail Patrol will resume in October. Meanwhile I encourage you to network within Friends over the summer to find hiking partners.

Several changes to the electronic reporting format are nearly complete, including the addition of drop down menus, a space to enter dogs off leash, and listing the names of Trail Patrol hikers on the hike report. These changes will further simplify the reporting process, accommodate the Wilderness Patrol Program and provide additional data for the Forest Service. Specific changes and instructions will be outlined in an email to you as soon as all the changes are complete.

Trail Hiking Safety Tips

Snakes are active again. Using your trekking poles to make noise before sitting on rocks or walking where snakes are likely to be is a good way to avoid a surprise and potentially dangerous encounter.

Have you checked the treads of your boots lately for wear? Replacing worn boots and wearing boots with lug soles and good ankle support reduce the risk of injury and foster safe hiking habits, which are top priorities for FOF and the Forest Service.



Our February Trail Patrol hike on Hi Line was shared by **Cynthia Jones, Lois Johnson, Darl Rector** (taking the photo) and myself.

I wish you all a safe summer and thank you for the valuable contribution you make to Friends and the Forest Service.

Elaine Hackett,
Trail Patrol Chair

Trail Patrol

Wilderness Volunteer Opportunities

In support of our Wilderness Ranger, Danielle Boulais, FOF members have begun to share wilderness information with the public while on Wilderness Trail Patrol and at the Fay canyon trail head.

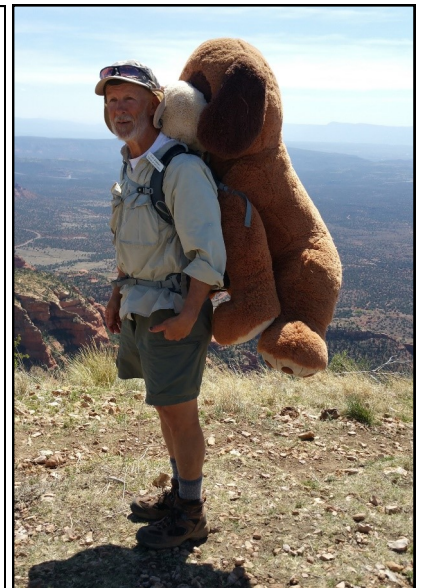
Wilderness Trail Patrol is an optional extension of Trail Patrol for FOF members hiking wilderness trails. When interacting with hikers, Patrol members are encouraged to provide a little wilderness education about some aspect of 'Leave No Trace' as it applies to the Red Rock district. Recreation guides can be handed out to hikers as additional source of information.

FOF members can also set up a 'Wilderness Information Station' at the Fay Canyon trailhead on weekends (9AM-2PM). A table and Wilderness box is available to be checked out at the Ranger Station. A 'bone box' may also be reserved through Candice Mark (Clmark@fs.fed.us). An on-line signup is anticipated. Until then, anyone interested in staffing this program should contact **Bob Kenney** (rmkenney007@gmail.com).

A special training was held for FOF members on topics of local geology, animal tracking, wildlife behavior, archaeology and native plants. Special thanks to the presenters, **Spence Gustav, Kevin Harding and Bob Beltz**.

Bob Kenny

Kurt Starbuck (right) is totally inspired about doing wilderness patrol and talking to trail users. He is up and down Bear Mountain sharing trail and leave no trace ethics with our visitors. Our new public contact junky.



About a month ago, while driving southbound (fortunately) on SR 179, the traffic heading north was slow-go all the way past the Chapel area. And that was on a weekday. On weekends, bumper-to-bumper traffic crawling up SR 179 can be seen from our visitor center, and Highway 89A delays down Oak Creek Canyon into Uptown almost seemed unreal. Arguably, it's a small price to pay for living in our beautiful area, and naturally we need the visitor influx to bolster the health of our economy.

Of course, none of this is news to the local readership as many undoubtedly have personal experiences to relate, timing travel into or out of town at the best time of day and making use of Beaverhead Flat/Cornville Roads to circumnavigate traffic congestion. And yes, late winter and early spring is our busiest season of the year, but wasn't this human stampede a little over the top? A graphic shared by Nina Hubbard, visitor center supervisor, puts the question to rest, visitation has been at an all-time high:

Month	2016 Total	Previous Record	Difference	Avg. # per Day(2016)
February	25,645	23,504 in 2015	2,141	884.3
March	39,741	38,118 in 2010	1,553	1,281.9

Not only was March 2016 our busiest March on record, but Nina reports it also set an ALL TIME monthly visitation record for our visitor center (March 2010 held the old record)! And just when we thought the number of visitors would start to noticeably drop off as it does this time each year, April 2016 (based on half a month of data) now seems poised to continue this record-breaking trend.

For our frontliners, all too often the response to the familiar question "where should I hike" has changed a bit lately to "at whichever trailhead you can find parking." Estimated arrival times at various trailheads and popular destinations had to be adjusted accordingly. Yes, VIS volunteers have been keeping unusually busy lately but it's almost a sure bet they much prefer it that way.

Our annual FOF Welcome Event was held at the visitor center on March 9th. The purpose of this show-and-tell by **Jennifer Young**, FOF President and the various committee chairs was to make our organization and its diverse mission more visible to the interested public while hopefully adding to our membership at the same time.



Also in early March, an Ancient Technologies demonstration was offered as a First Friday program and was viewed by a large number of curious visitors interested in knowing how Native Americans used plant material to survive in our area centuries ago. Our own **Al Cornell** (left) shared his knowledge (and showmanship) with the media covering the event. Photo by **N. Hubbard**.

And then there was Willard (right), the "hiking pig" who travels around the country in the family RV visiting hiking destinations. He stood patiently next to our bronze Javelina statue to visually display the differences between the two "pigs" (no word about which of our trails Willard decided on). Photo by **N. Hubbard**.



Jim Wilson, VIS

FOF Volunteers Continue to Assist at Fossil Creek

The Forest Service is implementing the new Fossil Creek Management Plan on May 1st with the help of volunteers from the Friends of the Forest.

Over the past years, publicity regarding the decommissioning of the Childs and Irving power plants, the removal of the flume and eventually the removal of the dam at Fossil Springs, public visitation has exponentially exploded. On July 4th, 2010, things came to a head with a major parking crisis along FR708 near the old Irving Power Plant location. At that time access to Fossil Creek on FR 708 from Strawberry was open along with the 16-mile access from SR 260 near Camp Verde.

On that day, all of the available off road parking sites were filled and visitors parked their cars along both sides of FR708 allowing only a narrow lane on the road with no room to pass or turn around. The lead cars coming in from opposing directions from both Strawberry and Camp Verde met front bumper to front bumper causing traffic to back up without options for turning around. Four Forest Service employees and four FOF volunteers who were present monitoring Fossil Creek usage spent many hours getting cars backed up and turned around so that they were pointed in the right direction to safely leave the Fossil Creek area. Photographs taken of the disaster prompted Forest Service management staff to seriously discuss developing a management plan to address the problem.

Over the years, FOF volunteer members have spent many hours assisting Forest Service employees in Fossil Creek installing 10 information kiosks, in monitoring and managing visitor access not to mention hauling out tons of trash, left behind by Fossil Creek visitors, 11,000 pounds in 2015 alone. After 6 years of study and planning, the Forest Service is implementing the new Fossil Creek Management Plan beginning May 1st, 2016.

In addition to the closing of FR 708 from Strawberry and a ban on campfires instituted several years ago under a temporary management plan, the new permanent management plan prohibits overnight camping making the Fossil Creek area a “day use only area”. Under the new plan, between April 1st and October 1st, parking is restricted to a daily total of 185 cars. In order to park at Fossil Creek, permits must be purchased over the Internet using the new Fossil Creek access reservation system for \$6 per day in one of 10 specific designated parking locations along the creek. Those permits must be displayed on the dashboards of parked cars and the car owner must carry a copy of the permit on their person.

In January 2016, 25 FOF volunteers were recruited by F. Adrian, Wilderness, Trails, and Rivers Coordinator, Red Rock Ranger District, to field test the proposed Internet reservation system. Using a dummy credit card number provided by the Forest Service, volunteers made reservations, purchased dummy permits and printed out a copies of those permits. Based on the suggestions made by the volunteers, the reservation system was tweaked to clarify confusing language and “ease of use” functionality.

On April 12th, 13th and 14th, 10 FOF volunteers assisted **Dexter Allen**, River Ranger, Red Rock Ranger District, in removing outdated signs and installing new signage in Fossil Creek regarding the new permit and parking restrictions. **Ernie DiMillo, Al Gilson, Jim Manning, Garry Neil, Wayne Schwetje, Sam Serrill, Rich Spinelli, Mike Ward, and Bob Wych** worked 12 hours each day in five man crews erecting 30 large signs at 16 locations. The locations included the 9 restricted parking locations near the creek, the FR708 at SR260 intersection near Camp Verde, and the Fossil Springs Trailhead near Strawberry. Also the crews installed dozens of “No Parking”, “No Camping” and “No Campfire” signs in the Fossil Creek management area.



With the help of FOF volunteers, the new management plan will make a major difference in preserving the natural wonder of Fossil Springs and Fossil Creek.

Mike Ward



Left to right: **Garry Neil, Sam Serrill, Mike Ward, Al Gilson and Wayne Schwetje**



Sam Serrill, Bob Wych and Ernie DiMillo working on the new Fossil Creek signage



BRAKE FOR SNAKES SIGNS going up in Oak Creek
Rich Spinelli and Kevin Harding Photos by **Garry Neil**



Frank Wirkus setting up "BAT CAM" at Devil's Dining Room, Photo by **Mike Vitek**



Kurt and Jerry bucking a tree. Photo by **Mike Ober**

Air Quality Monitoring in Wilderness Areas

Volunteers are assisting the Forest Service in replacing air filters in an air quality monitoring station on the Ike's Backbone ridge, 2000 feet above the confluence of Fossil Creek and the Verde River. The station is part of a nation-wide network of monitors in Class 1 area National Parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges and Native American lands that have been designated by Congress as places to be afforded the highest level of air quality protection under the law. If you are currently qualified to drive a Forest Service vehicle and are interested in a scenic (and somewhat bumpy) drive on Tuesdays, please contact marilyn.painchaud@fosedona.org. For more information, visit <http://cleanair.fosedona.org>. **Gene Rector and Al Gilson** doing Air Quality Monitor at Fossil Creek, photo by **Mike Vitek**.



Marilyn Painchaud

Merchandise

Some new merchandise will hopefully be available at the May meeting. If the order arrives in a timely manner, we will have some new caps and visors and a couple new shirts. We still have some of the safety whistles as well as DVD's of Sedona which make great gifts for people visiting you or to give as a thank you gift. Shirts still in inventory will be available along with patches to sew on shirts or backpacks. Checks or cash will let you carry home some new duds. **Debbie Wych and Roni Ward**

Trail Maintenance & Construction

The sign crew has had a very busy spring with the Fossil Creek and the Brake for Snake signage projects. Tree removal has been on going with the high winds that brought down many of the dead Ponderosa Pines on Vultee Arch and Sterling Pass trails. Crews found a large 36 inch Pine that had tipped over with the root ball tearing up the trail and the trunk completely blocking the trail. That tree took 2 cuts and a trail reroute to get the trail back in shape. (Photo right and bottom right of page 6 show **Kurt Starbuck and Jerry Piepiora** cutting trees on Vultee Arch). TM&C assisted the Forest Service with a special fencing project around the Broken Arrow Sink Hole. Fence posts were placed and new wire strung, social trails around the sink hole were closed and the area was revegetated. The new fence will provide a safer viewing of the Sink Hole for our visitors. Marg's Draw needed some major rework with rock steps being set in place near the Sombart Lane Trailhead, the crew spent two Friday workdays to complete this project.



I want to extent a BIG thank you to **Jim Manning, Kurt Starbuck and Ernie DiMillo** for covering for me the month of April while I was off playing in South America. They kept TM&C up and running and did a fantastic job. Thanks GUYS!

Mike Ober

V-Bar-V Discovery Days

Many thanks to the 18 volunteers who helped make this year's event a success! Despite being on a Friday and Saturday and falling on Easter weekend, we had 300 attendees each day. One of the fun events this year was audience participation with the Apache singers and dancers. (photo below)



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 41,687 (62%) 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 68% 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. UPDATE: An additional 3,000 print images have been added to this project. These images are historic photographs of 26 rock art sites.

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

The cultural site photo documentation project continues to photograph sites in Red Tank Draw, Fay Canyon, Bear Mtn., Deadman Pass and beyond. In this process they are expanding the inventory of sites known to the Forest Service. In the 3 years that this project has been in existence, this team has visited and recorded 118 sites. Of these the Forest Service did not have any photos for 35 of them. Of these 35, 19 were unknown to the Forest Service. To top that off, 25 of the previously photographed sites had very few photos and now have complete and detailed images. On top of everything else that the team has done, they have begun processing images of rock art with a software tool called DStretch. This tool creates alternate color scheme images which can help to enhance the images that we can normally see and reveal others that we cannot. To keep things consistent for the Forest Service, we have integrated the existing Forest Service digital images with the images created by this group and the images created by the digitization project. The current file count is 312,163 (and growing)!!!

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

Join me in welcoming new docents **Werner & Annie Reis** and **Judy Lovelett**.

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 (fofdcents@gmail.com) for more information.

Jerry Walters 284-1339, Cultural Resources



Al Gilson and Peg Kern assisting with the clean up of V-V before Discovery Days removing large loads of tumble weeds which required a **Peg Kern** "roll" to crush them before being hauled away.

Forest Service News

Please welcome our new RRRD Recreation Staff Officer, **Adam Barnett!** **Adam** comes to us from the Sierra National Forest where he is the Forest Wilderness Manager, managing an annual program of over \$600,000, much of it money he raised himself from grants, partners, and private endowments. He supervises a large workforce of permanent and seasonal employees and volunteers and works with a tremendous number of partners but he also has years of solid boots-on-the-ground experience making things happen in the dirt. He's worked on the Stanislaus, Yosemite National Park, and the Pacific Southwest Research Station. The hiring panel was particularly impressed with how **Adam** answered our questions about leading such a dynamic rec team and working through the kind of craziness that is just a regular Saturday on Red Rock. Please welcome **Adam** to the Red Rock Ranger District!

Nicole Branton, District Ranger

AZ Game and Fish Department biologists will be conducting otter surveys along all our perennial streams in the Verde Valley beginning in early 2016 through 2019. This is to assess an otter harvest season to control nuisance otters and to assess otter diets. So, they will be using a variety of methods: sign and latrine surveys, fecal collection, and hair snares. So, if you see folks doing weird things along our streams, it may be AZGFD biologists. The southwestern river otter was a native, endemic species that is now extinct. In the 80's AZGFD introduced a Louisiana subspecies of otters in the Verde River. Those otters did great and now we have otters in all perennial systems. The otters we currently have are extremely predaceous on fish but also eat crayfish. The fish hatchery was losing so much fish that they started trapping and relocating otters to Bartlett Lake. So, as cool as otters are, the ones we have today are not the native otter we had and it's not clear that they occupy the same niche and perform the same role as our native otter did. **Janie Agyagos, District Wildlife Staff**

Interpretive Programs

Here are a few words from our naturalist, **Kevin Harding** about the popular birding walks he has led this past winter/spring season. "The Forest Service sponsored two bird walks each month beginning in October, held at Bubbling Springs courtesy of Arizona Fish and Game. This venue provides a variety of habitat that draws many species of birds all year. During the winter months' participants were able to view a wide variety of waterfowl as well as winter residents such as Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebirds, Verdins, Bewick's Wren, and Abert's Towhee. It was not unusual to see twenty-five to thirty species in one outing. Improvements at Bubbling Springs area funded by the Northern Arizona Audubon Society enhanced our experience with new viewing platforms, signs, and benches. This cooperative effort has been a great success and we hope it will continue next year."

Special thanks to the Photo Walks with **JK Lovett**, the more strenuous Geology Hikes with **Chris Weld**, the Geology of Northern Arizona presentation by **Dr. Kennard Bork**, Ethno-botany Hikes led by **Roy Julian**, the flower walks with **Bob Beltz and Tori Marshall**, and the Birding Walks and Nature Walks with **Kevin Harding**. All continue to be popular events, usually with full bookings. Thanks to all who have supported these activities. An additional thanks go to the Yavapai Master Gardeners for their efforts in the spring flower display at the Red Rock Ranger Station. (A really busy spring for The Friends of the Forest.)

Note that hikes and walks require advance registration to limit group size. Call 203-2903 to register.

Upcoming events include:

Friday May 6 at 11:00 am. First Friday Nature Talk: "Liking Lichen". Presented by lichen expert **Garry Neil**. Location: Red Rock District Visitor Center.

May 6-May 8 Lichen Appreciation Week Display sponsored by lichen expert **Garry Neil**. Drop in at the Red Rock District Visitor Center and see the lichens - the first Forest Service event of this type.

Wednesday May 11 from 9:00-11:00 AM. Photography Walk. Led by local photographer **JK Lovelett** and Arizona Natural History Association Educator **Tori Marshall**.

May 28-29 from 9:00AM to 4:00 PM Live Rattlesnake Display presented by Arizona Game and Fish volunteers **Russell Dunn and Karen McClelland**.

June 4 at 8-10 AM Hummingbird Hand Feeding (Children's program). Children will have the chance to feed hummingbirds while they learn some interesting facts.

We continue to seek speakers for activities at the Visitor Center Theater, leaders for nature walks, youth activities, and other community events. Call **Bob Beltz** (928-554-4327) or **Jennifer Young** (928-284-0016) if you are interested in volunteering or have ideas for additional events.

Bob Kenney

Statistical Summary

The Friends are on the way to set a new record again this year. For the first six months we have 18,162 hours. That beats the record set last year for the same period of 15,794 hours. The Cultural Resource committee has 4212 hours - last year they set the record with 2762 hours for the same period. Trail Maintenance has tied the record set last year of 2692 hours. **Bill Kusner**

Members are always welcome at the Friends Board Meetings, come join us on **Wednesday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Ranger Station conference room. The meeting is an excellent way to get acquainted and learn what the Friends are doing. A bonus is the great refreshments that are provided by our Hospitality Committee.

As most of you know, **Mark Munsell** has stepped down as chairman of this committee after 4 years of dedicated service. He has not completely abandoned us, but is spending more time in Maine building boats. He will be with us whenever the call of Sedona beckons. We all thank him for his many efforts in this, at times, pretty difficult job.

As your new chairman, I hope to continue to meet the challenges of this position. It is probably the one committee we all wish didn't exist, but the reports to which we respond seem to be ever increasing. Our team is made up of approximately 30 members, of which we see approximately half on our bi-weekly cleanup hikes.

Trail graffiti normally consists of everything from simple rock and trail sign scratching to elaborate paint designs. Locations vary from flat rocks directly on the trails to very sensitive archaeological locations. Most are easily removed, whereas paint removal can require specialized supplies and may take multiple visits. Sometimes we cannot remediate the damage done to historic and ancient drawings for fear of further damage.

The greatest asset we have are ALL the members of FOF (and sometimes visitors) who frequent the trails over the entire Red Rock District. You keep us informed with photographs, reports, and coordinates. I cannot overemphasize how important those reports are. Please keep them coming. We may sometimes say – NOT AGAIN to a specific site, but we continue to hope that as visitor awareness of NO graffiti is raised, more of those hiking the trails will respect the environment.

Certainly there are the “regular” locations we visit – Bell Rock, Baby Bell, Devils Bridge, Submarine Rock, Slide Rock, and, of course Fossil Creek. Most of our man-hours are spent at those locations – and we all know those are the areas that receive most of publicity (notoriety). Unfortunately, however, reports come from sightings anywhere in the District.

If anyone has difficulty navigating the FOF website for forwarding a graffiti sighting, my email is jerryep@suddenlink.net. Please feel free to use that anytime.

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

Jerry Piepiora



Rich Spinelli, David Murrill, Ernie DiMillo, Marilyn Painchaud, Deneise and Jerry Piepiora



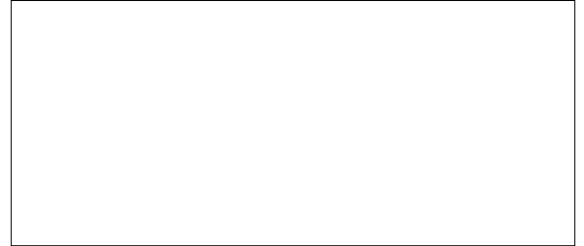


Sedona
Friends of the Forest

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*Helping to protect
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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday May 4, 2016 9:00 AM - Ranger Station
FOF Quarterly Board of Directors and Members meeting
All Members are welcome

Future Board of Director Meetings:

September 14, 2016
October, 2016 (To be determined)
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.