

Friends of Snow Canyon State Park



Photo by Evelyn Dore

2017 Annual Report

Board of Directors

President	Chuck Schwartzberg
Treasurer	Janice Heller
Secretary	Vickie Honchen
Member	Penny Cooper-Francisco
Member	Ellen Nathan
Member	Marlyn Graff
Member	Betty Marianetti
Member	Sandy Nelson
Member	Joyce Whalen
Member	Isabelle Kalantzes

Non-Voting Members

Park Manager	Kristen Comella
Assistant Park Manager	Jordan Perez
Park Naturalist	Jenny Dawn Stucki
Trail Steward Captain	Don Hite

Summary of 2017

I. Mission

The Mission of the Friends of Snow Canyon State Park is to support the mission of the Park; to preserve and protect the ecological, historical and recreational integrity of the Park through public awareness and education, and to promote the development of facilities and responsible recreation for present and future generations.

II. Protect - Preserve - Educate - Enjoy

Snow Canyon State Park offers a great opportunity to immerse yourself in breathtaking natural beauty on inviting quiet trails all within a few minutes from your home. As a member of Friends of Snow Canyon, you can also celebrate knowing that you are helping to protect and preserve these cultural, natural and historic resources now and for generations to come.

III. Public Awareness and Education

Friends of Snow Canyon continues to promote public awareness and education. Our focus this year was to expand on and implement new educational links on our website, friendsofsnowcanyon.org. In keeping with our statement of purpose to *support educational programs on the ecological, historical, cultural and recreational features of the park*, we offered the new following educational links on our website:

A. Wildflower page. We officially launched the Wildflower link in 2016. It is both interactive and informative and will continue to flourish as we add scientific names and detailed information about the wildflowers. Simply click on each photo to reveal the name of the plant, the photographer and where the photo was taken. This project was conceived by Board members Betty Marianetti and Penny Cooper-Francisco. Sandy Nelson developed the web page. Many members and visitors to the Park have contributed wildflower photos. We thank Park staff for assistance with plant identification.

B. Critter Page In May, 2017, Friends hosted a Critters photo contest for its members as well as the entire community. Simply click on our Critters link to see the winners, honorable mentions as well as all of the photos submitted. This link is a work in progress as we add scientific names and interesting facts about each critter.

C. Kids' Corner The purpose of this link is to encourage kids to get outside and enjoy the Park. We will provide educational links and activities on hiking safely in the desert, on flora and fauna, geology, and other interesting facts. Using this knowledge, they will be encouraged to responsibly explore the park through fun activities and to document things they find along the way. We hope to launch this program in the spring of 2018.

IV. The Trail Stewards Program at Snow Canyon State Park:

The Trail Steward Program, funded by FOSC, is staffed by dedicated volunteers who serve as goodwill ambassadors to the Park. Under the leadership of FOSC volunteer, Don Hite, Trail Stewards meet and greet visitors, and answer questions about the park's natural history,

including flora and fauna, geology, and local history. They also perform light trail maintenance and participate in work-along projects with Assistant Park Manager Jordan Perez. Their presence in the Park helps to protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources within the Park. Currently, 62 trained Trail Stewards volunteered over 1500 hours last year.

V. Promote the Development of Facilities: Friends of Snow Canyon is a membership non-profit organization with an all volunteer Board. Through proceeds from our membership, we proudly support the park through an annual donation. This year, we committed \$8,000 to the Park for new park benches, wayside exhibits and new trail posts and signage.

VI. Expressing Gratitude

Friends of Snow Canyon is in its sixth year of supporting the Park. We have many former Board members to thank for our success. Our new members bring a wide range of talent, ideas and perspective to our organization. *Like-minded people with a common cause can make a difference . . .*

VII. Friends of Snow Canyon Retrospective

Today, Friends of Snow Canyon has a total of 163 memberships that represent approximately 250 members, including 50 Golden Memberships (\$100), 51 Supporter Memberships (\$50), 41 Family Memberships (\$30) and 21 Individual Memberships (\$20). Trail Stewards volunteered over 1500 hours on park projects! In addition, many Members volunteered countless hours on projects organized by Park staff.

VIII. 2017 Timeline

01.18.2017 Geology in the Canyon with Colby Ford, Dixie State University. Colby introduced us to Geology 101 on the Petrified Sand Dunes focusing on the Navajo Sandstone.

02.01.2017 Volunteer Opportunity - Jenny's Canyon Trail Revegetation. Twenty members assisted the Park Manager in transporting and planting native plants to deter social trails around the canyon.

02.02.2017 BUGS I - Creepy Crawlers of Southwest Utah with Bill Hoy, PhD, Entomologist and Curator of the Hoy Insect Museum. Seventeen members enjoyed the displays of insects and Dr Hoy's fascinating stories of collecting insects around the world, many times under the protection of armed guards.

02.23.2017 Nesting Raptors of Snow Canyon with Wildlife Biologist Rick Fridell. Thirty raptor enthusiasts enjoyed a morning with Rick along West Canyon Rd as he discussed the history and nesting requirements of raptors in Snow Canyon.

03.01.2017 Critters in the Canyon Photo Contest. This spring, Friends of Snow Canyon offered a Critter photo contest to its members as well as the general public. Entries were accepted between March 1 and May 1, 2017. Whether it stalks, soars or slithers through the Canyon, all critter photos qualified down to the noblest beetle. First prize was a Desert Discovery Pass. Second prize was a Snow Canyon ball cap and t-shirt and Third prize was a Snow Canyon pin and patch. Visit our website, friendsofsnowcanyon.org, to see the winning photos.

- 03.28.2017 Explore the World of Lichen** with Dr. Marius van der Merwe. Thirty-one members explored the world of one of nature's most fascinating creatures - lichen. It is a biological partnership between a fungus and a photosynthesizing partner - a great example of cooperation in the natural world.
- 04.25.2017 BUGS II** - the field work with Entomologist Dr. Bill Hoy. Seventeen bug enthusiasts gathered to chase and identify bugs in Hackberry Wash.
- 05.02.2017 Sunset Hike and Photo Workshop** with Don Hite. Eleven members joined Don Hite in Snow Canyon. Whether you are using an SLR, smart phone or iPad, Don will teach you how to capture the perfect shot.
- 05.19.2017 Critters in The Canyon winners announced** (1st, 2nd and 3rd places plus two honorable mentions.)
- 07.17.2017 Too Hot to Hop Summer 2017 Newsletter** announcing the solar eclipse, upcoming member events, hot weather hiking tips, and highlighting our website especially our Wildflower page and our new Critters page.
- 09.23.2017 Star Gazing** with Ron Smith (This event was full but canceled due to inclement weather. We are currently trying to reschedule it.)
- 09.30.2017 National Public Lands Day Volunteer Opportunity - Trail Renovation Gila Trail/ Petroglyph Slot Canyon.** Eight hearty volunteers worked with Park Managers to refine the trails around this slot canyon and eliminate social trails.
- 10.04.2017 Nevada's New National Monuments,** Gold Butte and Basin and Range with Ph.D Ecologist Jim Boone. Jim gave a lively and interesting slide show presentation to 43 Members at the Red Mt Resort's Snow Canyon Room. Although a few of us were familiar with the rich archaeological, cultural and historical sites in Gold Butte NM, almost no one was familiar with the Basin and Range NM and the iconic land art sculpture, *City*, by Michael Heizer.
- 10.13.2017 Trail Stewards' Annual Meeting and Barbecue** with Jordan and Don
- 11.04.2017 Annual Meeting: Hikes and Annual Potluck in the Park.** Friends is offering two hikes prior to the potluck: a ninety minute hike led by Park Manager Kristen Comella and a more gentle hike led by Park Naturalist, Jenny Dawn Stucki.

Thank You For Your Support!