



2021 Annual Report

Friends of Snow Canyon State Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organized in 2011 and incorporated in 2012.

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

Board of Directors

President	Kathy Edwards
Vice-President	Dick Coe
Treasurer	Linda Neff
Secretary	Cori Mantle-Bromley
Past President	Open
Members	Jim Bily
	Lori Capshaw
	Marcie Eberwine
	Isabelle Kalantzes
	Ellen Nathan
	Barry Neff
	Sandy Nelson
	George Otott

Non-Voting Members

Park Manager	Kristen Comella
Trail Steward Captain	Don Hite

Newly Installed Board Members

Eric Simonsen
Phyllis Winkler

Message to FOSC Members

from Park Manager Kristen Comella

Thank you for your continued support of Snow Canyon State Park. Throughout 2021, COVID-19 continued to bring challenges, the largest being that park visitation was up a whopping 55% from 2019 as a COVID-weary populace was hungry to get outdoors. We couldn't have managed without the efforts of you—the Friends of Snow Canyon. Your support helped us reprint much needed park brochures and trail guides, helped with the design of a soon-to-be-released “Common Wildlife of Snow Canyon” brochure, kept our trail system from falling to bits, and much more. Your passion and commitment make a tremendous difference, and they are regularly noticed by staff and visitors alike.

Introduction

This is the second year that the Friends of Snow Canyon organization has been significantly affected by the global pandemic of Covid 19. As a nation and a world we have seen deep tragedy alongside the incredible speed of science that has led to the emergence of highly effective vaccines. It is in this context that we review 2021 accomplishments and activities of the Friends of Snow Canyon (hereafter referred to as FOSC).

The Board of FOSC (hereafter referred to as the Board) has continued their decision to hold board meetings via conference call throughout the year. Events were limited to those that could be presented via internet until November. With the decrease in the state's Covid 19 numbers, the accessibility of vaccines, and the relaxation of Utah's group size requirements, we slowly began adding outdoor, in-person activity for the FOSC members. We continued to limit activity to outdoor events only, limited group size, asked participants to be cognizant of social distancing, strongly recommended vaccination for participants, and recommended mask wearing when possible.

As this report is prepared for January 2022 release, the Board continue their monthly meetings via conference call. A primary item of discussion is the search for meaningful park-related activity that we can provide members while maintaining science-based protocol for members' safety.

We also note the changes made within the park. Employees have followed state guidelines as they interact with the public. Ranger-led events were not held early in the year, but have slowly been scheduled for the last quarter of 2021. Trail Steward volunteers (supported by FOSC) are asked to maintain strict protocols as well, leading them to interact less than they otherwise might with the visiting public.

It is in this context that we provide the Annual Report of the FOSC organization—describing FOSC activities to its membership. We sincerely thank each of you for your continued support.

Part I. Supporting the Mission of the Park

A. *To Preserve and Protect.*

1. **Member Opportunities.** Snow Canyon State Park offers a unique experience to immerse oneself in breathtaking natural beauty within minutes of the region's urban areas. Friends of Snow Canyon members contribute to Park efforts to maintain trails, protect the Canyon's natural residents (both wildlife and plant life), and preserve the natural and cultural resources within the Park. As a member of Friends of Snow Canyon, you can celebrate that your dues directly contribute to the park's mission and goals, ensuring that this gem of southwestern Utah is responsibly enjoyed by thousands of annual visitors now and for generations to come.

Covid 19 has directly impacted the number and kind of member events FOSC has scheduled, as well as impacting the number of visitors to the Park. The first half of the year, events were primarily via Zoom conference calls. Visitation numbers soared. By mid-May, the Governor of Utah lifted the mask mandate for state locations.

Usually, FOSC sponsors multiple events for members to help with park beautification and maintenance. In the past, such events have included pulling of mustard weed, graffiti removal, and trail maintenance. While this year's scheduled activities were fewer, the following "Preserve and Protect" activities occurred:

- May 18, Lava Flow Trail Special Project for Trail Stewards
 - Johnson Canyon Work Party
 - Marcie Eberwine and Joel Bingham worked independently to help eliminate puncture vine and goats' head plants.
 - November 2, work party to reseed after a fire event, led by Park Manager Kristen Comella
 - December 7, a second reseeding event, led by Kristen Comella
2. **Trail Stewards Program at Snow Canyon State Park.** This program is supported by Friends of Snow Canyon and is staffed by dedicated volunteers who serve as goodwill ambassadors to the Park. Under the joint leadership of FOSC volunteer Don Hite and Assistant Park Manager Jordan Perez, Trail Stewards provide invaluable service. They are often the eyes and ears on the trails. Stewards meet and greet visitors to the Park's trails, answer questions about the Park's natural history, including flora and fauna, its geology, and its local history. Stewards work diligently to maintain trails and participate in work parties to improve trails, all under the supervision of Jordan Perez. Don Hite and Jordan Perez both extend their appreciation to all of the Trail Stewards for their care of the Park and to the Friends of Snow Canyon for supporting the program. A total of twelve new Trail Stewards were

trained and joined the program this year, bringing the current total to 58. A total of 2,600 volunteer hours were reported by the Stewards for the 2021 year. The following efforts and accomplishments for 2021 are noted:

- May 18, Lava Flow Trail Special Project
- Fourteen Trail Stewards participated in the “Adopt a Trail” program during the summer months
- Johnson Canyon work party to prepare for the trail’s opening
- October 15, work party at Pioneer Names trail
- “Hike with Jordan” educational event, November 12, focusing on ravens.
- Special work party, November 16, Jenny’s Canyon

Jordan Perez, Assistant Park Manager says the following: “The Trail Stewards program continues to be an integral part of park operations at Snow Canyon. Were it not for the support of the Trail Steward Program and the dedication of Don Hite and the rest of the trail stewards, the park we all love would have been in a bad state. Over the last year, we saw huge numbers of first-time outdoor visitors venturing into the park and bringing with them an array of perplexing behaviors. Stepping up to the challenge, many existing stewards participated in our summer "Adopt a Trail" program and 12 new stewards joined the ranks. To keep the stewards engaged, we have reintroduced the monthly "Special Project" and "Hike with Jordan". Both activities have been well received and participants are excited to get together, learn a little and witness the impact that a group can have on a heavily used-and-abused trail. We have also continued our "trail of the month" which guides stewards to a specific trail needing attention each month. Future plans for the program involve transferring all current hard-copy documents and reports to a central online source to reduce administrative time and encourage higher rates of reporting.”



TRAIL STEWARDS MEET WITH JORDAN PEREZ, RIGHT, TO LEARN ABOUT RAVEN BEHAVIOR

B. *To Provide Public Awareness and Educational Events.* We are pleased that even with restrictions due to Covid 19, we were able to offer events to FOSC members. In November, we returned to limited outdoor events.

1. The following events were held in 2021:

- February 3, Kristen Comella Zoom presentation: The Value of Place: From Economics to Intangibles
- March 9, George Otott Zoom presentation on geology of Snow Canyon
- April 1, Lura Snow Zoom presentation on the Mojave Desert Tortoise
- April 22, Sara Seifkin Zoom presentation on amphibians in Snow Canyon
- May 11, Ann McLuckie Zoom presentation on the impact of wildfire on desert tortoises
- May 19, Shelby Stock Zoom presentation on Utah's Dark Sky Initiative
- November 9, in-person geology walk and talk by George Otott
- December 8, repeat of in-person walk and talk by George Ottot

2. FOSC maintains an active website, managed by board member Sandy Nelson. The website includes membership activity, events notifications, and the popular flora and fauna of Snow Canyon pages. These pages are updated as new information becomes available. These flowers, for example, were added during 2021:



**ABOVE, RIGHT: BEAUTIFUL PHACELIA.
ABOVE, WHITE: DESERT WISHBONE.
RIGHT: BASTARD TOADFLAX. BELOW,
YELLOW: RAYLESS GOLDENHEAD.**



3. We also communicate with members using informational newsletters. This year, FOSC sent nine newsletters and three additional email messages to members. We thank outgoing board member Isabelle Kalantzes for these communications.
- C. *Promote the Development of Facilities.*** Friends of Snow Canyon annual memberships and donations have allowed FOSC to support Park improvements. FOSC has provided to the Park a total of \$48,922.73 since its inception.
1. This year, based on planning and requests by Park Manager Kristin Comella, FOSC provided a total of \$8,900 to the park for the following:
 - \$400 for chat for Lower Galoot and Petrified Dunes parking lots
 - \$1,000 for reprinting the Rockin' Jr. Ranger booklet
 - \$1,500 to support a park intern
 - \$2,000 for two new benches, one for Hidden Pinyon and one for Upper Galoot
 - \$1,000 for steel fence upgrades
 - \$3,000 for brochure printing
 2. FOSC has raised funds beyond membership dues for the new Tortoise Trail that is in final design stages. This new trail will educate park visitors about the desert tortoise and will feature a life-like sculpture of the beloved desert tortoise. We report the following activities:
 - Outgoing board member Isabelle Kalantzes secured a \$35,000 grant from the Kish Foundation to support this educational trail.
 - We provided \$17,500 to the Park to commission an artist to create the tortoise sculpture and for the purchase of a block of granite that is being used for the sculpture for the Tortoise Trail.
 3. A number of projects were delayed by Covid-19 restrictions and will be completed as soon as possible.

Part II. Expressing our Gratitude

The Friends of Snow Canyon Board of Directors is grateful to every member for committing to support Snow Canyon State Park's mission. Your membership dues, donations, and volunteer hours allow the Park to move forward critical goals, ensuring that the park is cared for and maintained beyond what Park staff and funding alone could do.

We specifically thank the following:

1. Outgoing Board members Marcie Eberwine, Isabelle Kalantzes, and Cori Mantle-Bromley for their time and dedication.
2. All past and present Board members, who have provided countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Park and the FOSC organization.
3. The Kish Foundation for their generous support of the Tortoise Trail.

4. \$1,000 Stewardship Sponsor
 - Joel Bingham
5. \$250 Golden Plus Memberships
 - Doug Beck
 - James and Linda Bily
 - Peter Scherer
 - Tom and Marsha McCoy

Part III. Summary

Friends of Snow Canyon is completing its tenth year of supporting Snow Canyon State Park. Membership is the core of the organization and depends on each of you. Today, FOSC has a total of 134 memberships representing nearly 300 members.

If you have program ideas, suggestions for program improvement, or interest in serving on the Board or as a Trail Steward, contact any of the Board's members.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about Friends of Snow Canyon State Park and encourage them to consider joining FOSC in support of this incredible natural wonder in our backyards.

Contact information, along with membership renewal, new member information, and Park information can be found on our website:

www.friendsofsnowcanyon.org

Membership Levels

- Individual \$20.00 (membership for one adult)
- Family \$30.00 (for the entire family)
- Supporter \$50.00 (for an individual or family and includes two complimentary one-day park passes)
- Golden \$100.00 (for an individual or family and includes four complimentary one-day park passes)
- Golden Plus \$250 or more (for an individual or family and includes four complimentary one-day park passes plus recognition in the Annual Report)
- Stewardship Sponsor \$1,000 (for individuals or corporations and includes recognition in the Annual Report as well as on our website)

Thank You for your Support!

Note: Detailed financial statements available on request