



2022 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
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President

2022

Dick Coe
George Otott
Linda Neff
Jim Bily
Kathy Edwards

2023

George Otott
Vacant
Linda Neff
Jim Bily
Dick Coe

Members

Eric Simonsen
Lori Capshaw
Phyllis Winkler
Ellen Nathan
Barry Neff
Sandy Nelson

Newly Installed Board Members

Dean Cavaletto
Alan Risenhoover

Non-Voting Members

Park Manager
Trail Steward Captain

Kristen Comella
Don Hite

Message to FOSC Members

from Park Manager Kristen Comella

2022 was an exciting year.

After many years of planning and fund-raising, we formally opened the “Tortoise Walk”, culminating in a beautiful seating area and 4,200-pound sculpture of a Mojave desert tortoise. This path and vibrant displays will be enjoyed by visitors of all ages for years to come.

Park Naturalist, Phenix Johnson, was able to purchase a Celestron NexStar 8SE telescope. This fine instrument has allowed her to expand our education programs and bring our night skies to life for both Friends members and the public-at-large.

We launched our new volunteer Park Docent program. Viewed as the “little sister” to our Trail Stewards program, this exciting effort allows Friends members to serve as part of our “education team”. Docents’ ability to provide education programs will expand the number of visitors we can reach and expand the breadth and depth of our public offerings.

Your passion, dedication, and continued support made these projects possible, and are part of what makes Snow Canyon such a special and loved place. We look forward to 2023, more exciting projects, and seeing you in and around the park.

2022 in Review

2022 marked the tenth anniversary of the founding of Friends of Snow Canyon. In 2011, Kristen Comella, Park Manager, gathered a number of local residents to discuss the feasibility of forming a Friends group to support the Park. State budget cuts over a number of years were having a negative effect on the Park. Kristen thought a Friends group could help, both through active volunteerism and a level of fund-raising. Over the following months, a board of directors was formed, by-laws written and in February of 2012, the FOSC received its 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization designation. Ever since, FOSC has provided the support that Kristen envisioned, continuing to grow and increase its activities and funding capabilities.

2022 was not without challenges. The world is still in the grips of a pandemic and society has had to adapt. The board has maintained a conservative approach to COVID, holding its meetings by Zoom in the early months of the year and restricting member events to those that could be held outside. Those restrictions have been lifted but masks are still welcome, though not required, at all FOSC events.

2022 marked the completion of FOSC’s largest funding project, an increase in the number of trail stewards to an all-time high and membership also reaching a new record high. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support!

Supporting the Mission of the Park

A. *Preserve and Protect.*

1. **Member Opportunities.** Snow Canyon State Park offers unique hiking, camping, biking and less rigorous opportunities to commune with one of the most awe-inspiring landscapes in the country. The Park protects wildlife, plants and, yes, even rocks. Members of FOSC contribute to the enjoyment of the tens of thousands who flock to the Park and the preservation of those precious resources directly through volunteerism and indirectly through funding. In 2022, members participated in service projects that included:
 - March 1, Sahara mustard removal
 - April 1, graffiti removal from the Petrified Dunes area
 - May 10, revegetating the area around Upper Galoot with native plants
2. **Docent Program.** New in 2022 is a Docent Program, initiated by Park Naturalist Phenix Johnson. Beginning with 5 docents, this program will have docents out in the Park, setting up exhibit tables at popular trailheads to provide information about specific areas of interest, such as wildlife or geology.
3. **Trail Stewards Program.** 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 to both our visitors and to the resource itself. Stewards meet and greet visitors to the Park's trails, providing advice on trails to use and to answer questions about the Park's flora and fauna, its geology, and its local history. Stewards work independently to maintain trails as they roam the Park on their hikes. They also participate in work parties to improve trails, under the supervision of Jordan Perez. Projects this year included work on Lava Flow, Toe, Johnson Canyon, Red Sands, Whiterocks and Pioneer Names trails. In 2022, FOSC purchased new vests for all trail stewards, replacing vests that were too hot in summer and faded and frayed for those stewards who have served for a number of years.

During the hot summer months when many stewards retreat to cooler climes, a cadre of 12 year-round stewards participate in an adopt-a-trail program. Each picks a favorite trail and commits to giving that trail extra attention during the summer. These volunteers brave scorching temperatures to make sure the trails are in top condition for all visitors.

Seven new stewards were added during the year, bringing the total to 61, an all-time high. The group contributed 2700 volunteer hours to the Park, also a new record. Don Hite, Jordan Perez and the FOSC Board all pass along their thanks for the stewards' contributions and fine work.



Trail stewards set to begin work rerouting the Whiterocks trail

B. Provide Public Awareness and Educational Events.

1. FOSC sponsors educational and fun events during the non-summer months for the enjoyment and education of members. In 2022, these events included:

- February 1, The Canyon and the Cosmos, with Phenix Johnson
- February 24, Birds of Snow Canyon, Zoom presentation by Paul Jaussi
- April 6, Yoga in the Park with John Yohman
- April 12, Life and Times of the Desert Tortoise, hike with Ann McLuckie
- April 19, Spring Wildlife Hike with Rick Fridell
- September 29, Scorpion Hike with Phenix Johnson
- October 20, Yoga in the Park with John Yohman
- October 27, Stargazing party with Phenix Johnson
- November 15, Snow Canyon State Park Through the Eyes of a Geologist with George Otott
- November 22, Yoga in the Park with John Yohman

2. We maintain an informative website featuring flora and fauna of the Park, a description of upcoming events, biographies of the Board, and links to park resources. The website is used for event sign-ups, donations, new membership sign-ups and membership renewals. New in 2022 is a Core Plants page where plants can be identified by locating an image of the plant. A click on the image will bring up information on the plant. Also new is a News page with current information on FOSC happenings, flowers in bloom and a link to our YouTube channel. The YouTube channel includes recordings of past Zoom educational events.

3. We electronically send FOSC newsletters to all members. These newsletters present current park-related information as well as FOSC updates and information. A total of 6 member newsletters were distributed in 2022.

C. *Promote the Development of Facilities.*

In years past, Friends of Snow Canyon relied solely on annual memberships and donations to support Park improvements. Recently, we have more actively sought grants from charitable foundations and so have been able to help fund larger projects. In 2022, a grant from the John C. Kish Foundation allowed us to make a major contribution for the new Tortoise Walk that was unveiled in September. A new grant from the Kish Foundation as well as a grant from the Ironman Foundation have given us a head start on the next proposed project, a shade pavilion for the Chuckwalla Trailhead. Based on planning and requests by Park Manager Kristen Comella, FOSC provided a total of almost \$36,000 to the Park for the following:

1. \$150 for chain for the Jenny Canyon parking area
2. \$27,700 for the Tortoise Walk sculpture, benches, chat and opening ceremony
3. \$2000 for Trail Steward vests and name badges
4. \$325 for Jr Ranger badges
5. \$4000 for Park brochures
6. \$500 for bike safety signs
7. \$300 for trail sign decals
8. \$850 for the new Park telescope



Sculpture and benches on the new Tortoise Walk

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 advance 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 member Kathy Edwards for her time, dedication, and wisdom. Kathy assumed the role of President right before COVID made a shambles of all our programs. Her calm leadership over the two worst years of the pandemic helped us continue our work and emerge stronger than when it started.
- 2) All past and present Board members and trail stewards, who have provided countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Park and the FOSC.
- 3) Stewardship Sponsors
 - Joel Bingham
 - Wildland Trekking
- 4) Benefactor
 - George and Denise Otott
 - John Yong Park
- 5) Golden Plus Memberships
 - Doug Beck
 - Jim and Linda Bily
 - Jeff and Paula Botkin
 - Jean Campos
 - Rob and Kathy Herrick
 - Stephen and Lisa Jarvis
 - Doug & Sunny Mavor
 - Tom and Marsha McCoy
 - Bonnie McGee and Garydon Hubbard
 - Judy Odom and Ron Vermillion
 - John Yong Park
 - Jim and Sue Ann Roberts
 - Peter Scherer
- 6) Grants
 - John C. Kish Foundation
 - Ironman Foundation
- 7) Major Donations
 - Sandra Carla and Brian Donnell
 - Danajo Johnson

Summary

Friends of Snow Canyon is completing its eleventh 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 193 memberships.

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 members.

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

Contact information, along with membership renewals and new member information, and Park information can be found on our website: www.friendsofsnowcanyon.org.

Membership Levels

- 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 (for an individual or family and includes four complimentary one-day park passes plus recognition in the Annual Report)
- Benefactor \$500 (for an individual or family and includes six 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