

Friends of Snow Canyon State Park Directors' Meeting April 10, 2025

Place: Snow Canyon State Park

Attending Board Members: Lori Capshaw, Linda Neff, Barry Neff, Sandy Nelson, George Otott, Alan Risenhoover, Ellen Nathan, Phyllis Winkler, Jim Bily, Kristen Comella, Don Drabant

The meeting was called to order by President Otott at 3:00. He introduced Don Drabant as a potential new Board member. Don has been a trail steward for 5 years and also a docent. The Board voted unanimously to add him.

Part I. Written / Oral Reports

1. Minutes: The minutes of the March 13, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report: The report was approved with no question.
3. Membership Report: Written report, approved. Barry noted that while membership counts were normal, dues paid are down as several members gave less as well as 8 members either being late or dropping off. Discussion ensued about renewal follow-ups and it was agreed to add a final renewal reminder at 90 days.
4. Email: Barry and Sandy discussed the merits of dropping our gmail email account and changing to FriendsOfSnowCanyon.org domain. Google offers that account free as a non-profit. It would allow us to establish discrete email addresses for various uses. While making the change will create a bit of confusion and work, the benefits outweigh the costs. The Board approved the switch with no dissent.
5. Trail Stewards' Report: Written report from Phyllis attached as addendum. Phyllis talked to Don Hite and he encouraged the trail stewards to carry and give out FOSC business cards to visitors as appropriate.
6. Facebook: Phyllis said activity was down from the prior month but still strong.
7. Events: Written report from Lori attached
8. Park update: Kristen said we are nearing the end of the spring break crush with visitation down just a bit from last year. Most of the construction projects are winding down while the White Rocks project has just started with an expected completion date by July 1.
9. Website: Sandy is still working on the donor page. She suggested that thank you notes could be sent out a bit quicker. Discussion ensued and it was decided that Ellen will continue to acknowledge all donations under \$100 while George, as President, will send notes for all at or above \$100.
10. Fund-raising: Don agreed to join the committee and serve as point person. Kristen offered special thanks to Barry and Phyllis for their quick work revising a grant request to beat a deadline.

Part II. FOSC Business Updates.

1. Possible FOSC project: At the last meeting, the Board had discussed a special FOSC project to combat dog waste on the trails. Kristen said the Park has already taken steps such as posting signs at all of the trailheads. The Park does not have the capacity to take on waste disposal that putting "poop" stations at each trail head would create. She suggested that trail stewards could carry a supply of poop bags to offer to dog owners.
2. With trail stewards being asked to carry FOSC business cards, we are running low. George will coordinate with Phyllis to get a fresh supply, perhaps waiting until our new email address is established.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Next meeting on May 8 at 3:00 at Park Headquarters.

Written Reports

TRAIL STEWARD REPORT (Phyllis)

SPECIAL PROJECT: New White Rocks Trail Tuesday April 8, 9am

The old parking area for White Rocks TH will soon be under construction to create a larger, safer parking lot. Therefore, the TS will be putting the educational hike with Jesse in March into practice! Creating a new trail to the white rocks.

TRAIL OF THE MONTH: Scout Cave

In addition to the usual meet and greet hikes of choice we're asked to spend one visit on this specific trail.

Trimming and aligning rocks directly routing visitors to stay on the marked path is required. Many short cuts and social trails are visible.

HIKE WITH JESSE aka Marcie Eberwine WILDFLOWERS!!

Monday April 28, 9 am

Marcie is the author of What's that Plant?? (A Guide to the Core Plants of Snow Canyon) Marcie is a professional botanist and happily shares her knowledge of Snow Canyon's wildflowers passionately! A favorite annual hike, not to be missed!

JESSE'S MOUNTAIN GOAT PROJECT

Open to any spry, sturdy ankled, brave TS willing to venture "over the edge" of the Overlook to retrieve trash. Contact Jesse directly!

Web Report (Sandy)

Numbers (usage, hits, etc) in all categories for our website were substantially lower since our last report. The one category that showed improvement is our "bounce rate" which is the number that indicates that a user stays on the site longer and perhaps goes to additional pages.

I am hoping to see an increase in numbers for the next month as people usually are interested in our wildflower, plant and critter pages. If the trail stewards hand out our "business cards" while engaging with trail visitors and tell them about our website, maybe we will capture some new hits and possibly new members.

Check out our improved donation page. Working within the limits of software from Membership Works we have made changes that should make donation options more clear to our donors and more importantly more clear to Friends so that funds are properly acknowledged in a timely matter. We have had instances where checks have been received with little or no information as who should be thanked, etc.

EVENTS: (Lori)

Previous Events summary:

1. **Exploring our Cliffs: Bats of Snow Canyon:** Thursday, March 13, 5:00pm @ Ivins City Hall with Bat biologist Zac Warren (for those who missed it, Zac is the cliff ecology field lead for Bat Conservation International. Although based out of Zion National Park, Zac works in multiple parks from Yosemite to Big Thicket (Southeast Texas) and has been studying bats for 15 years. His recent specialty is utilizing technical rock climbing and rope access techniques to research roosting bats on cliff faces; a rarely studied yet vital ecosystem.) This was a very well attended event. And, I would like to nominate Zac for a FOSC to show our appreciation for his efforts. Hopefully, we will be able to host a follow up event in the fall.
2. **The Secret Lives of Wildflowers** Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 9a.m. – 11a.m. @ Scout Cave/Johnson Canyon parking lot. This was an amazing experience with Kristen leading a dynamic exploration of the wildflowers that are surviving and thriving in the dry desert environment.

Friends of Snow Canyon Upcoming Spring 2025 Events and Volunteer Activities

Illegal Trail Removal Round 2, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 9a.m. – 11a.m. @ East Berm Trail lot, 100 East in Ivins

Description: Volunteers are needed to move rocks and dig holes in an effort to remove a persistent illegal trail adjacent to the Berm trail. Volunteers should be prepared to dig holes OR lift and haul rocks ranging from 2 to 15 pounds in weight.

Earth Day Celebration Hike, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 9a.m. – 11a.m. @ Scout Cave/Johnson Canyon parking lot

Description: Join retired Wildlife Biologist, Rick Fridell, for a 2-mile roundtrip hike along the Johnson Canyon trail. During this desert ecology hike, we will search out reptiles, birds, and other Snow Canyon critters while discussing our desert ecosystem.

Yoga in the Park, Thursday, May 1, 2025, 4p.m. - 5:30p.m. At Upper Galoot on the rocks behind the Picnic Area.

Description: Join John Yohman in a yoga practice of gratitude inspired by the beauty of Snow Canyon State Park. This gentle practice will focus on connecting body and breath as we reflect on the abundance that surrounds us. Please bring your yoga mat and water to drink.