

ALL-MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF THE TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

24 JANUARY 2022

Attending via Zoom were Brian Stultz, Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dayan Anderson, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Trent Shue, Eric Yamane, Bert Roy, and Urb Weidner. Guest members attending were Pamela, Paul Slaker, Bill Howard, Luke Edens, Rebecca Rayburn, Sabrina McNally, Dan Trainor, Alan, Scott Boyden, and Paul Harwood

6:00pm Open meeting

- Introductions of board, officers, and guest members were made.
- Guests included those who are already very active, some of whom expressed an interest in becoming more involved with Friends of the Tonto.

Brian Stultz - President's message

Elections -

- Helene, Scott, Susan, Dayan, and David are running. Guests were invited to run.
- Voting will be electronically from Jan 28 – 31. Members will be mailed a ballot.

Treasurer's report – Susan (Financial report details submitted to the Friends' database)

Highlights –

- Had originally thought that there were no donations from the Federal Employees Campaign; however, there was actually \$668 in pledges by YE2022. Also, \$325 from Paypal Giving Fund.
- Friends of the Tonto rates high on percentage of funds going directly to programs as opposed to admin and fundraising expenses. A rating of 60-70% is considered excellent. Friends of the Tonto achieved 75.8% of funding going directly to programs.
- Membership will vote to approve 2022 budget. The budget will be sent with the election material.

Don Pike- Invasive Plants Removal –

- Presentation material shared on Zoom.
- Superstition Mountain Project – Non-native plant removal in western Superstitions. Includes 3,000 acres. Activity to-date has been by volunteers. Work has been done

since 2017 with participation by over 100 volunteers. Involvement has also included volunteers from ASU student groups, Mayo Medical, Toyota, Wells Fargo and others.

- Has been using the Field Collection mobile app for monitoring. Once app is stable, will set up training.
- Two significant grants have been received. One each from the Tonto NF and the Dept of Fire and Forest Management for invasive removal, mapping, and monitoring.

Pete Allard – Membership (Information submitted via email prior to meeting)

- 74 total members consisting of 47 individuals, 22 families, and 5 organizations.
- Renewal notices for 2022 dues were sent to members in November.

Trent Shue – Water Source Inventory

- Presentation material shared on Zoom.
- Inventory for water rights and natural resource management. Surveyed are springs wells, and tanks. Inventories involve mapping, photos, plant life notation, and measurements. Almost 2,000 sites have been inventoried. Collected data is uploaded.
- Watershed monitoring of springs in the Payson area will be done this year. This is part of a national effort for watershed restoration. Will conduct training in March.

Patti Fenner– Milkweed for Monarchs

- Presentation material shared on Zoom.
- Started program in 2016 with intent to plant 1,000 seedlings. We've been planting every year since then and are now achieving almost 100% of healthy plants as a result of an improved growing/planting/watering processes. Will start growing plants in July, then plant in Nov.

Susan Sridharan – Milkweed for Monarchs

- Presentation material shared on Zoom.
- Reviewed growing/planting process using seeds captured from Milkweed plants in the Tonto. A watering schedule was established.
- Planted at Wildcat and Rattlesnake Cove in Cave Creek Ranger District and Phon D Sutton Recreation Site in the Mesa Ranger District

Eric Yamane – Adopt-a-Site

- Started Boing Ecological group in 2014 to adopt a site. Started with Boulder Canyon at Canyon Lake. Then, in 2017 added Acacia Recreation site. The work also serves to educate volunteers about the wilderness, invasive plants and the Tonto National Forest.
- Continue to seek corporate volunteers for the work and for gift matching for volunteer hours as has been done by Boeing.
- Asian-American Lions Club have adopted Rattlesnake Cove. They will expand tasks to include milkweed plant watering.
- Eric played a video, which showed the Lions Club group at work.

Scott Wood– Cultural interpretive sites & Adopt-a-Site

- Presentation material shared. The slide show is on our web site.
- Adopt-a-site projects at Sears-Kay Ruin and Shoofly Village Interpretive site. Every year we have an open house at the locations. Also, we publish brochures for each site.
- At Sears-Kay, erosion control work was performed to counter the effects of fire and the resultant damage done by subsequent rains. Also cleared grasses/weeds which resulted from the rains.
- Additional work will be done at Sears-Kay on Feb 7th & 21st. Will hold an open house at Sears-Kay on March 6th.
- At Shoofly, work is continuing to provide a pipe fence around the parking lot. Have a contractor and reasonable bid. Were able to obtain leftover pipe, which was donated from another Forest project in another district.
- Will try to have an open house at Shoofly.

Dayan Anderson– Coordination with Central AZ Conservation Alliance

- Presentation material was shared.
- Annual CAZCA All-Partners' meeting scheduled for Feb 25th
- Sonoran Seed Summit scheduled for Apr 5th at the Desert Botanical Garden. Will bring people together to strategize for the future of native plant material development in central AZ. Will also focus on how everyone can work together to achieve common goals.
- Desert Defenders Program is ongoing.
- May be opportunity to share resources with other groups for efforts such as marketing and fundraising.

Patti Fenner– Riparian Photopoint Program

- Showed presentation material

- Reviewed background of riparian Photopoint program. We now run the program and work with the Forest hydrologist. There are over 800 Photopoint sites. Photos used by the Forest service for management purposes such as invasive plant removal and repair of areas damaged done by cattle.
- Will start training in March for 2022 efforts.

Susan Sridharan– Cave Creek Trail System signage project

- Showed presentation material
- Covers about 35 miles of trail, the signage of which needs major improvement. People often get lost. Numerous areas are overgrown and need brush removal.
- Desperado Trail Scouts donated \$10,000, which is to be used to upgrade the signage. We are also applying for a grant to bring in crews to do the necessary work.
- Plan to have volunteer days where groups of volunteers could work for a day on brushing and putting up signs.

Comments/questions from members – 15 min

- It was stated that the Skull Mesa system needs work and has been problematic for hikers.
- Combined Federal Campaign – Need to apply by end of Feb. Cost is \$340 for the application and \$14 if approved. Patti moved that the board approve \$354 for the coming year. Motion unanimously approved.
- Susan said we received \$600 pledge from someone in the Forest Service in Washington DC.

Executive Director's report – Patti

- Plan to get first aid training for Board from couple in Chino Valley. Cost is \$35 per person plus \$75 travel fee. Let Patti know if interested.
- A few events coming up. Public Lands Day in Scottsdale on Feb 12th. Could also put a table for a day at REI.

8:00pm Adjourn