

# **SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING**

## **FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

Trail Boss, Terri Petrescu, began the meeting at 7:03 pm.

There were no new members in participation during this meeting to introduce themselves.

### **VOTES**

The Trail Boss asked the general membership in attendance to vote on passing the Foreman's report dated January 1, 2021. The resolution passed unanimously with no objections.

The Trail Boss asked the general membership in attendance to vote on accepting the General Meeting Minutes dated January 14, 2021. The resolution passed unanimously with no objections.

### **HIKING SEASON**

The Trail Boss stated that the current hiking season is on pause due to high COVID rates at the end of January, stating that the Yavapai two-week positivity rate was over 35%. However, the COVID rates for Yavapai County are coming down, and the Board will evaluate opening up the season again for March, during the last week of February. If the Board decides to open for March, all of the COVID rules will be in place, and an email will be sent to notify the general membership.

### **RED ROCK TRAIL FUND-DRIVE**

Sedona Westerners will conduct a Fund-drive during this month, where the Sedona Westerners' will match donations, up to \$1000. We also have an anonymous donor will match up to \$1000. Additionally, a second anonymous donor will match up to \$1000, if we have at least 40 donors. This means that:

- If you have two people in your family, each needs to make a separate donation to be counted as 2
- Your donation could be increased by an additional \$3 per \$1 you donate!

A membership email will be sent with link (<https://redrocktrailfund.org/page-18212>), that you can use to donate

- Please make sure your check or donation is marked as Westerners 2021 so it is counted

In keeping with prior Sedona Westerners support of trail signage, the web page prefills with signage as the area targeted where the funds will be used. However, you can modify this to another project focus area, if you wish.

### **MEMBER UPDATE: GRETCHEN YAGER**

Tom Yager reported that Gretchen was hit by a drunk driver while bike riding in San Diego on January 31, 2021. She sustained significant injuries; is in the ICU and sedated. No cards are allowed at the hospital, currently. You may send electronic cards for Gretchen to Tom via [tomyager8@gmail.com](mailto:tomyager8@gmail.com).

## HIKE BOSS REPORTS

Due to the pausing of our hiking season, there are no Hike Boss reports of past hikes or upcoming hikes at this time.

## OFFICER REPORTS

Terri Petrescu presented for Michael McCaffrey, who is the Prospector. It was reported that as of February 9, 2021 the total members are 276, of which 61 are new members and 29 are honorary members. This time last season, the membership was 388 total members.

Terri Petrescu presented for Mark Bealafeld, who is the Foreman. It was reported that the club has a cash balance of \$12,010.75 as of February 3, 2021. The complete Foreman's Report is on the website at

<https://sedonawesterners.org/minutes.php>

Terri Petrescu presented for Phyllis Elliott, who is the Sunbeam officer. A get-well card was sent out in January to: Gretchen Yager. Additionally, a condolence card was sent to John Schleich. Should you have knowledge of cards that would need to be sent out, please contact the Sunbeam through the link found on the Officers page at:

<https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Michael Henry, Ranger, reported on his reports to the US Forest Service, which included 6 reports of graffiti and vandalism and 1 report of transient camping. He also made us aware of a new issue appearing on the trails - a new Instagram trend at: "#sedonawalkingstick". This consists of a laminated poem and a plastic zip ties that attaches the poem to a walking stick. Please note that the plastic parts are considered trash, and if you encounter it, please remove and properly disposed of the plastic parts. Also send a report to the SW Ranger regarding where the walking stick was found; statistics are being developed on the frequency of occurrences. He reiterated guidelines for our hikers: first, in the event that a hiker sees any graffiti or vandalism, to capture the location (with GPS and pictures, preferred) and not to try to remove the graffiti ourselves; secondly, if a hiker encounters a transient camper NOT to approach the person, but to note the number of persons and their location, and if possible, to discretely take photo or GPS to aid law enforcement. In all cases, send the information to the Ranger whose link is found on the Officers page at:

<https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

## AUTOCAMP

Sandy Heysinger informed the general membership that the proposal for the AutoCamp in the Bear Mountain area was in the phase where the Board of Adjustments would consider whether the AutoCamp would be granted an exception to the current zoning which would then allow them to use trailers. The organization Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB), opposes this project and urges us to make our feelings known about the AutoCamp proposal by contacting Development Services at [planning@yavapai.us](mailto:planning@yavapai.us), and by attending the virtual hearing which has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am. To register for this virtual hearing go to: <https://yavapaicounty.webex.com/>. The issue is that the Board of Adjustment has been asked to review the legality of using trailers as housing, either short-term or permanent. This is required before the Planning and Zoning considers the re-zoning request. At last count, over 300 people had sent in comments about AutoCamp's requests. To voice your thoughts, go to [savebearmountain.com](http://savebearmountain.com) and click on the appropriate link.

Simultaneously, AutoCamp has asked the United States Forest Service (USFS), for permission to build/improve the road to the property. To contact the USFS on this issue go to: [comments-southwestern-cocino-redrock@usda.gov](mailto:comments-southwestern-cocino-redrock@usda.gov) and [coalition@savebearmountain.com](http://coalition@savebearmountain.com)

Note that both approvals are required for AutoCamp to proceed.

For frequent updates, sign up on [savebearmountain.com](http://savebearmountain.com).

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Donna Forsythe, Ray LaPorte, and Mark Bealafeld. Barbara O'Connor is the chairman.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the Elected Offices, please contact one of the Committee members listed above, who can be reached via the Sedona Westerners' website. All descriptions of the Elected Offices are on the Sedona Westerners' website at: [https://www.sedonawesterners.com/bylaws.php\\_under Article 10](https://www.sedonawesterners.com/bylaws.php_under_Article_10). Please consider supporting the Sedona Westerners by serving as an Officer. They are looking to put a slate together for the March meeting.

## GUEST SPEAKER

The Wagon Boss, Dave Minott introduced our guest speaker, Betsy Klein, who is a co-founder of the national organization "Plan B to Save Wolves". This is an organization that promotes protection and preservation of the wild wolf and the rescue of wolf-dogs who may have been misused or mistreated. Ms. Klein spoke on "Plan B: When We Save Wolves, We Save Ourselves." A few of the facts that were presented are:

- Currently, there are approximately 6,000 grey wolves are left in the lower 48 states
- In the early 1900's the US government used a bounty system and poisoning system to eradicate wolves
- In the early 1900's there were 2 million wolves
- In the 1970's wolves were almost extinct in the lower 48 states
- In 1973, wolves were put on the Endangered Species List
- Wolves have only returned to about 10% of their historic range
- In Yellowstone, wolves were eliminated by 1926
  - The removal of the wolves, altered the park's entire ecosystem (known as a "trophic cascade")
  - When wolves were re-introduced into Yellowstone 25 years ago, the ecosystem repaired itself
- Wolves were removed from the Endangered Species list on 1/04/2021 in the lower 48 and Mexico
  - Some of the northern Rocky Mountain states are anti-wolf and are aggressively killing wolves, using a variety of methods
- In Arizona, Mexican Grey Wolves are found (currently, 76), and their numbers increased by 24% in 2019
- I AM WOLF NATION – is a virtual wolf advocacy that was integral to helping to get AZ to be the 4<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to end killing contests
- Sedona Wolf Week will be held November 10-14, 2021
- Operation Cupid's Arrow is a fundraiser as part of Plan B's ongoing commitment to provide high-quality care for the High Desert Wolves that were rescued in 2018. This fundraiser is to help provide a veterinary MASH unit at Eagle Tail Mountain Sanctuary to provide veterinary care for 17 of the wolf dogs. Go to: [www.gofundme.com/f/operation-cupids-arrow](http://www.gofundme.com/f/operation-cupids-arrow) to learn more and contribute.
- To learn more, go to:
  - [www.PlanB.Foundation](http://www.PlanB.Foundation)
  - [www.IAMWolfNation.org](http://www.IAMWolfNation.org)
  - [www.SedonaWolfWeek.org](http://www.SedonaWolfWeek.org)

- You can join their email lists and follow their Facebook pages

Terri ended the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny  
Wrangler