

## **“Owls - Messengers of Wizards and Witches”**

### **Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.’s Speaker Series Topic**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

“*Owls- Messengers of Wizards and Witches*” will be the topic at Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.’s monthly *Preserving the Wonder™* Speaker Series on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open with wine and appetizers at 5:30 pm, and the presentation will begin at 5:45 pm.

Come join the fun at Keep Sedona Beautiful and discover the myths and facts about our nocturnal friends. Sarah Reif is the Habitat Program Manager for Arizona Game and Fish Region II, and will introduce two live owls to the audience and talk about the strange beliefs associated with them. Very few birds have inspired more folklore and mythology than the owl. For centuries, cultures around the world have carried with them different beliefs about owls as symbols of wisdom, evil, luck, death, fertility, and sin. Together we will explore how these creatures of the night inspire and terrify the world’s cultures, shed some light on their adaptation to nocturnal hunting, and meet the ghoulish cast of owl species haunting the forests, deserts and grasslands of Arizona.

Sarah Reif has been with the Arizona Game and Fish Department for over 10 years where she currently works on wildlife habitat projects and environmental review of land uses that range from timber to grazing to highways to wind farms. Sarah was born and raised in Arizona, and is committed to working with people to conserve the wildlife habitats and landscapes we all call home. She currently lives in Mountaineer where she and her husband are teaching their 1-year old daughter how to hoot for owls.

Keep Sedona Beautiful welcomes the community and visitors alike to its free monthly *Preserving the Wonder™* Speaker Series, which takes place at its historic Pushmataha Center, 360 Brewer Road in Sedona. Held the third Wednesday each month from September to June, typically beginning at 5:30 pm with wine and appetizers, the award-winning series presents an interesting diversity of programs relevant to the unique environment of our region. Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that, by acting through the stewardship of its members and volunteers, is committed to protecting and sustaining the unique scenic beauty and natural environment of the Greater Sedona Area. For more information about Keep Sedona Beautiful, please call 928.282.4938.