



Preserving the Wonder™

Fall 2021

**KSB's Quarterly
Environmental
Message:**

**In Sedona,
the Environment
...IS...the Economy.**

**Keep Sedona Beautiful's mission is to
protect and sustain the unique scenic
beauty and natural environment of
the Greater Sedona Area**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Once again, my quarterly message to members concerns change.

Just as life was beginning to return to normal,

the COVID Delta variant evolved. It's spreading rapidly through the unvaccinated and is impacting children and young adults much more than previous strains. It's also causing 'breakthrough' infections among the vaccinated, although these have caused few serious cases.

Keep Sedona Beautiful is committed to following CDC guidelines. We had hoped to resume in-person Speaker Series events starting on October 13 but will evaluate conditions closer to the event to determine if these events should instead be held via Zoom. Thanks to all of you who have attended our virtual events. You can learn about upcoming speakers at <https://www.keeptosedonabeautiful.org/speaker-series-2/>.

In our summer newsletter, I wrote about the need for an Operation Warp Speed for the climate. In the interim, the [UN released a report](#) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluding that "Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and some trends are now irreversible, at least during the present time frame ..."

Now, more than ever, we all need to contact our elected representatives to demand that

swift and decisive action be taken to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels and methane generating activities. Time is of the essence! [CLICK HERE](#) to access a list of your elected officials.

The City of Sedona is doing its part, having recently adopted a [Climate Action Plan](#). It is now time for both Coconino and Yavapai Counties to formulate and adopt similar plans. You can contact County Supervisors through the email links supplied [HERE](#).

As plastic use continues to rise and pollute our planet, this newsletter features some great information on things everyone can do to begin reversing or halting the impact. See the "Dirty Dozen" infographic in this issue of our newsletter for practical alternatives, as well as the One Month to Reduced Plastics Consumption article and the interview with Doug Copp from Sedona Recycles for additional information. The Good News article that provides some hope, too.

On a sad note, Marc Fuller who hosted and supported the KSB website recently passed away from a heart attack. A number of years ago Marc generously donated his time and energy to revamping our site, giving it a fresh new look and feel. We greatly valued his contribution and mourn his passing. Marc's sudden passing left KSB without web support and facing the potential of our site going down unexpectedly.

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**10,000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS
OVER 5,000 HOURS
LITTER LIFTING**

Yes! We are relevant and will continue to be so as long as stewardship, preservation, quality of life and caring for our community are important to our daily lives and future generations.



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Rob Harrison, who I have the pleasure of serving with on the Board of Directors of Benefactors of Red Rock State Park, stepped in and gave of his time to migrate our website to a new hosting platform, ensuring that our web presence would continue uninterrupted. On behalf of the KBS Board, I'd like to express our most sincere thanks to Rob for helping us avert a technical crisis. Thank you, Rob! (Rob also donated his time to create the superb new [Benefactors of Red Rock State Park website](#).)

Stay safe!

Craig Swanson, *President*

ONE MONTH TO REDUCED PLASTICS CONSUMPTION

A RESIDENT'S STORY

When I moved to Sedona in 2019, I was shocked at the recycle and litter challenges we face in the greater area. A good deal of the problem seems to be caused by overconsumption of plastic. *Many of the plastic items Sedona residents bring to recycle are plastic containers used to store food and beverages and not all are recyclable. Until the food container industry starts managing consumer waste, the public needs to learn what its recyclable to help guide their purchasing decisions.*

Many of the plastic or Styrofoam (made from polystyrene plastic) food containers used in Sedona are not recyclable and end up in the landfill. When this happens, they can take a long time to decompose; estimates are that plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose in a landfill and plastic bags can take much longer. Fortunately, there are other options that are more friendly to the environment.

When you consider the size of Sedona (~10,000) residents and then add the estimated [3 million yearly tourists](#), you have a huge recycling challenge. Just think of how many single-use plastic “to go” food or beverage containers are consumed on a daily basis here by residents and tourists and either inappropriately recycled or tossed in the garbage to head for the landfill. It's mind-boggling!

In tackling the local plastics issue, I decided to take a self-imposed “one month to reduced plastics consumption” challenge and share what I learned. I'm hoping this article prompts readers to take action and commit to more conscious consumption and recycling of plastic.

During the first week, I conducted a home audit to learn more about my plastics consumption and became aware of just how much of the food that I purchased was housed in plastic. This was eye-opening. During the second week, I found ways to curb my plastic consumption and make substitutions that resulted in healthier choices for me and for the environment. For easy reading, I put it all in this table:

Plastic Consumed	Week One: Home Audit	Week Two: Substitutions
Recyclable #1, 2 plastic bottles (water and soda) Recyclable #5 (tubs, buckets, containers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't drink soda, but I do drink water in #1 plastic bottles, on occasion I purchase food (e.g., condiments, cooking oils) in plastic bottles I consume food (e.g., cheese, yogurt) in #5 plastic, tub-like containers I consume frozen meals that can be reheated in their plastic containers/trays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through my research for this article, I learned that the water in a plastic bottle is just plain unhealthy to drink, because we don't know what temperatures the bottles have been transported and stored in. Heat can cause plastic to “seep” into the water, which means you're drinking plastic. When I go out or go hiking, I take my own reusable insulated water bottles that keep the water cold. I now get my drinking water from the Sedona Water Store because the water here is too hard. I now purchase cooking oils and condiments in glass bottles. I only purchase frozen meals in eco-friendly containers because the plastic containers/trays cannot be recycled in Sedona.

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Plastic Consumed	Week One: Home Audit	Week Two: Substitutions
Nonrecyclable “clamshell” plastic or nonrecyclable single-use food containers from the “deli” or takeout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I consume food (lettuces, herbs, deli items, takeout salads and hot foods from a “bar”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I’ve since learned that these containers are not recyclable and contribute greatly to the recycle woes here in Sedona. Ouch! I am slowly refraining from buying any food in these containers.
<p>Nonrecyclable plastic containers from local restaurants that offer carryout</p> <p>Nonrecyclable plastic or Styrofoam containers for leftovers from local restaurants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I carry out from local restaurants (several times a week) I take home leftovers from dining in at local restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have since learned that carryout plastic containers are not recyclable. Ouch! If I carry out from restaurants, I seek out and frequent those establishments that use environmentally friendly containers for carryout. If I go out to dinner and have leftovers, I carry Stasher storage products and just transfer my leftovers over to these storage items, bypassing the nonrecyclable “to go” containers many establishments use.
Nonrecyclable plastic or Styrofoam cups with lids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I consume made-to-order hot or cold “to go” beverages (juice bar, coffee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have since learned that these plastics are not recyclable, even though many bear a #1 on the bottom of the cup. Ouch! It’s just better not to purchase these beverages in plastic cups or request paper cups without plastic lids and then transfer the beverage to reusable, insulated bottles (one for hot, one for cold) that are kept in the car.
Nonrecyclable, reusable plastic food storage containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I save a few nonrecyclable plastic branded containers to store leftovers in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I substituted glass and silicone storage items for what plastic I had been using for food storage and then reuse the glass containers when the food inside is gone. For food storage bags, I have purchased silicone storage “bags” and rely on those to keep produce, cheese, etc. in. I am amazed at how long these items remain fresh! As an alternative to the SPLF silicone storage bags, Stasher is another brand I have come to appreciate. Both brands have different sized products that keep food fresher, longer, and they can be washed and reused. I have since purchased a glass storage container set with lids and have tossed out all plastic storage containers.
Recyclable plastic bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I throw out plastic bags from loaves of bread, fruits and vegetables, and chain and grocery stores. I purchase items (e.g., chips, snacks, cereal) that is packaged far more than I thought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I now have reusable mesh produce bags and reusable totes/bags that I keep in the car for trips to the grocery store or market. I also tend to shop in stores that use paper bags at the checkout counters. I live in West Sedona and now take my plastic bags to Bashas and Safeway for recycling.

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Kudos to Layla's in West Sedona for their eco-friendly carryout containers.



When I thought about the statistic at the start of my article (10,000 Sedona residents / 3 million tourists), it didn't take long to realize there is a real plastics challenge here in the Verde Valley. Sedona Recycles does an amazing job of recycling plastic, but there isn't a market for all of the different types of plastic produced. Awareness is key! The best thing to do is find suitable substitutes for plastic; the worst thing is to continue to consume food and other products in plastic that will go to the landfill.

Week three: Embrace habits that encourage plastic free living and drive to conscientious recycling.

It's challenging to figure out what to do with all the plastic wrapped items we consume. Recycling can be confusing, but we can all take responsibility for learning what's recyclable here in the greater Sedona area. Visit the Sedona Recycles page (see Resources below) to learn more about what can and cannot be recycled in Sedona. There are lots of helpful tips about recycling things you don't know what to do with, too, that go beyond plastics.

A single takeout Caesar salad with chicken side yields 9 nonrecyclable plastics items/containers from this restaurant that end up in a landfill. This has to stop!



Week four: Commit to living sustainably, improving and fine-tuning along the way. It's all about progress, not perfection. Progress is good. If managing plastic in your life sounds like too much work, it probably is. So, why not take the reduced plastic consumption challenge and begin with just a few changes each week or each month?

This experience led me to question how much single-use plastics packaging is used in the food industry and how much I want to trade convenience for a polluted future. I walked away from the month feeling more informed, better about the changes I made and empowered because I am part of the solution. If this article has prompted you to take the challenge and you have some insights to share, KSB would love to hear them. Email us at KSB@keepsedonabeautiful.org.

Resources

[Amazon](#)
[Sedona Recycles](#)
[Earth Day](#)

INSIDE SEDONA RECYCLES

AN INTERVIEW WITH DOUG COPP, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SEDONA RECYCLES BY GRANT BLATTMAN, NAU FORESTRY STUDENT AND KSB INTERN

As Keep Sedona Beautiful tries to sort through the world of plastics recycling and make it relevant to residents and tourists, I decided to visit Sedona Recycles and get the low down on plastic directly from those that give their time to this busy facility. I had an in-person tour / interview with Doug Copp and was amazed by the volume of materials passing through the Shelby Drive facility every day.

Doug provided insight into what kind of work is done at their facility.

"We're what's called a multi-stream recycling center. What that means is we ask the public to do some of the sorting for us, in bins, because recycling is very labor intensive."

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He is talking, of course, about the many ways in which the public can sort their recyclables before they reach the recycling center. He touches on this point, as he describes the challenges and benefits that come with being a multi-stream recycling center.

“I would say that most of the plastic waste that comes to the facility is disposed of correctly. The two biggest mistakes the public makes are putting it in the wrong bin ... they put their bottles in the paper bin for example ... or they put things in the bin that are not recyclable.” Doug explained.

Recycle according to the instructions on bins

But I wanted to get to the real meat and potatoes of recycling. What can the average citizen do to make a difference?

Doug explained that in the recycling world, there must be a way to sell the raw materials. In short, for Sedona Recycles to “recycle” anything there must be a market for it and a business to sell the processed bales of plastic to ... for a reasonable price, of course. He explained this further:

“In 2018 the recycling industry worldwide faced a big problem: for many years, China took ‘dirty recycling’ from Western countries because they were building their economy and had very cheap labor. They stopped buying recyclables from the Western countries because it was so contaminated. We’re now stuck with large supply and less demand for recycled material, so prices decline. The average citizen can become more informed about how recycling in their city or town works because it differs across the country.”

He added, *“We touch every plastic item that arrives here. If it’s recycled properly, we process it and sell it and it becomes something new. Please follow the instructions on the signs on our bins. For example, a #1 bottle is recyclable, but we cannot recycle a #1 clamshell container. The molding process changes the characteristics of the plastic. Not all plastic is recyclable here. If we cannot recycle it, then it goes in our trash dumpster and we pay to have it hauled to the landfill.”*

“Sometimes plastics end up in our cardboard bins. If the sign on a bin says cardboard, then only flattened cardboard goes into the bin. Please don’t put packing material such as foam padding, Styrofoam, bubble wrap, etc. in the cardboard bin. These are forms of plastic and do not belong in a cardboard recycling bin. Sometimes packing material is glued to the cardboard. If the packing material cannot be removed from the cardboard, then the cardboard box should not be recycled.”

Doug explained how imperative it is to look at the number in the middle of the chasing arrow triangle on the bottom of the plastic container. *“The number tells you the kind of plastic resin. It’s basically a message from the manufacturer telling the recycler what this is made from,”* Doug said. *“Number 1 and 2 bottles are the most reliable plastics we can sell.”*



*Image on left:
Doug Copp and the
wall of processed
plastic*

*Image on right:
Waiting to be sorted
and processed*

“There’s a market for number 1 and 2 bottles. These recyclables are commodities and the prices fluctuate,” Doug explained.

Bottomline: it is important to understand what kind of plastic you are “consuming” and that varies wildly. Here is a quick rundown from Doug about the different kinds of plastic:

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#1 PET or PETE	Recycle: plastic soda and water bottles (rinse out and leave lids on bottles)
#2 HDPE	Recycle: milk jugs, water jugs, laundry detergent bottles, etc.
#5 PP	Recycle: some bottles, cups and tubs
Plastic bags	Recycle at Basha's and Safeway: bread bags, chain store bags (see guidelines on Sedona Recycles website, under the A-Z Reuse and Disposal Guide ... link in Resources below)

A word from Doug about #2 bottles: *"There's frosted HDPE, which is what your milk jugs are made of. There's colored HDPE, which is your laundry soap bottle. There's also rigid Styrofoam, which we have recycled in the past, but at a loss of about \$1 a pound. We received a grant for a machine that densifies block Styrofoam into logs that are then palletized. The machine must be fed by hand, carefully mixing hard and soft Styrofoam in equal parts. Other kinds of Styrofoam we don't process. But you can drop off bagged Styrofoam 'peanuts' at our main facility for people to reuse,"* he added.



*Image on left:
Waiting to be
processed*

*Image on right:
Processed Styrofoam
... time-consuming
and not at all
profitable to recycle*

Are there any tips beyond paying attention to what kinds of plastics are recyclable versus the ones that are not? As it happens, yes. And Doug had a few memorable quotes on what to do. Most of it can happen within that first pillar of the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle).

"First pillar is reduce; consume less. When you do consume, try to buy something that is in a package that is recyclable," Doug said. "The biggest thing is to reduce consumption and consume smarter. At some point we have to ask ourselves if that 'convenience' food is worth it, in the long run."

Doug also addressed the third pillar: recycle. *"It's important to keep in mind where you live. You now know that most facilities have their limits on what they can and cannot accept. Maybe in New York City this plastic is recyclable, but it isn't here. There are no national rules for recycling. Recycling is pretty much relative to the market you live in."*

He also expressed his concerns on recycling, in general:

"No country wants our dirty recycled plastic so we're down to basic business 101: supply and demand. When you have a huge supply and low demand, the prices will plummet. So, it becomes an issue of conscious consumption for us. If people don't purchase items in plastic, manufacturers will have no reason

to produce it in increasing amounts and the food industry, in particular, will rethink all this packaging.

"I'd also like to tell people not to do what I call 'wishful' recycling, which is leaving things that you aren't sure about at our sites. This creates a big problem for us, because we have to dispose of those items. Some of these items can be recycled elsewhere. It means a little work on your part, but it relieves us of the burden of getting rid of it," Doug added.

In conclusion, there are a multitude of things that you can do to make a difference when you are recycling plastics:

1. Pay attention to the recycle numbers
2. Sort items into the correct bins
3. Remember that recycling is not the same everywhere

Most of all, remember that there are three steps in recycling, as mentioned earlier, but before you send your recyclables to your collection bin it's important to reduce and reuse!

Resources:

[Sedona Recycles main page](#)

[Sedona Recycles guide to materials accepted](#)

[Sedona Recycles A-Z reuse and disposal guide](#)



The Dirty Dozen

Plastic Polluters and How to Live Without Them



1. SINGLE-USE WATER + SODA BOTTLES

Use a reusable metal or glass water bottle when possible



2. SINGLE-USE BEVERAGE CUPS (plastic or Styrofoam) + LIDS

Ask for beverage to be served in a paper cup (no lid) and transfer to your own reusable container



3. SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT CONTAINERS (plastic or Styrofoam)

Ask to have your order put in your containers or ask for an eco-friendly container



4. STYROFOAM BLOCK PADDING

Bring the Styrofoam to Sedona Recycles



5. STRAWS + DRINK STIRRERS

Swap for reusable, or eco-friendly straws or go straw-free; swap for reusable glass or bamboo stirrers or spoons



6. SNACK + CONVENIENCE FOOD PACKAGING (the plastic-foil hybrid)

Stop trading our future for convenience



7. MICROBEADS (used as exfoliants in personal skin care products)

Swap for natural skincare alternatives (e.g., salt or sugar scrub)



8. THE "Q-TIP"

Swap for reusable silicone swab (e.g., LastSwab)



9. CHAIN STORE BAGS, PRODUCE BAGS + BREAD BAGS

Recycle these at Basha's or use your own reusable bags or totes for groceries and produce



10. BALLOONS

Just "say no"



11. TOOTHBRUSHES

Swap for bamboo alternatives



12. ZIPPERED STORAGE BAGS OR PLASTIC FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS (home use)

Swap for reusable soft silicone storage containers (e.g., SPLF or Stasher)

Good News

Keep Sedona Beautiful is featuring stories about plastics in this issue of our Quarterly Newsletter, drawing attention to the ever-growing problem of plastics pollution. While the overall picture remains bleak, significant research and development is going into finding practical and cost-effective solutions.

As KSB has repeatedly emphasized, the most immediate solution is for us all to shop wisely and reduce our consumption of plastic. *If we all just “say no to plastic” demand will tumble and force suppliers to look at how much they produce.*

Click on any of the following items to access a related story, understanding that this is a small sampling of the good news all around us.

- [Malawi's landscape is clogged with plastic waste that could linger for 100 years. One woman has taken on plastic companies and won.](#)
- [New plant-derived polymer could replace single-use plastics.](#)
- [River plastic interceptors are stopping trash from reaching the ocean.](#)
- [Plastics can be broken down into fuel, and we just found a great method for it.](#)
- [Sir David Attenborough backs new U.K. tech that can recycle all plastics.](#)

Keep Sedona Beautiful

Reminds all members
to patronize our generous sponsors.

PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM TACTICS

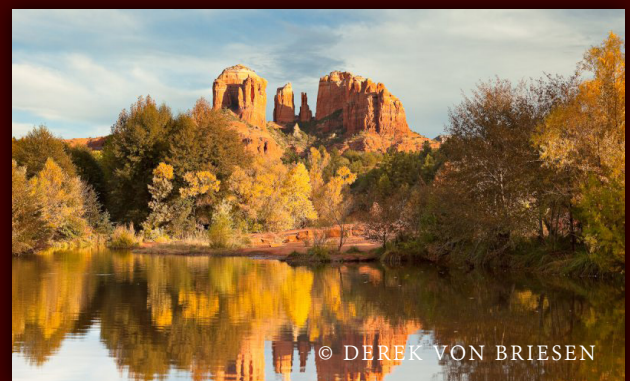
Keep Sedona Beautiful strongly supports the [Sustainable Tourism Plan](#) created and adopted by a coalition of organizations led by the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sedona. Implementation of the plan will improve the quality of life for both tourists and residents.

KSB is responsible for leading work on four of the tactics itemized in the Plan:

1. **Encourage less consumption of single use plastics.** *This Quarterly Newsletter is an example of how KSB is reaching out to encourage less consumption of single use plastics.* We will continue to communicate this message regularly.
2. **Advocate that development of private/public lands is in alignment with sustainability goals.** KSB is actively involved in influencing the update to the Yavapai County Comprehensive Plan. That plan will define how the County evaluates development proposals for the next 10 years and is key to protecting and preserving our land.
3. **Encourage grandfathered businesses and residents to implement dark sky-compliant lighting.** We recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation to help “Upgrade Light Fixtures to Dark Sky Requirements.” We also received a grant of \$1,642 from the Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program. Combined with KSB’s budgeted contribution of \$4,500, we have over \$9,000 to initiate our lighting replacement program.
4. **Encourage businesses and residents to eliminate the use of pesticides and other chemical products that may negatively impact the environment.** We recently completed a trial weed killer program in which we supplied volunteers a free gallon of a non-toxic herbicide that we identified as a good candidate to replace herbicides like Roundup.



Many of the tactics in the Sustainable Tourism Plan are long-term and will take a number of years to complete. KSB will regularly update our members on progress.



RESULTS OF THE NON-TOXIC WEED KILLER PILOT PROGRAM

To help promote the use of non-toxic herbicides, Keep Sedona Beautiful conducted a pilot program, providing participants a free gallon of Natural Armor Weed and Grass Killer. We chose this product for the pilot program because it appeared to be the most promising commercially available option.

Participants were asked to use the Natural Armor product on a portion of their property so they could compare the results to the rest of their yard that they weeded as normal. Participants were also asked to supply the following information:

1. Did you feel this product was effective? 85% felt it was effective, with some feeling it worked only on broadleaf weeds and/or thin grasses.
2. If so, were you happy with how fast it worked? 85% were happy with how fast it worked.
3. What weed removal product or technique were you using prior to this test product? Responses included: weeding by hand, shovel or with a hula hoe; used the sun; vinegar or a vinegar mixture; Roundup, KillzAll.
4. How do you think this product compares to your previous removal product or technique on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not as effective and 5 having the same effectiveness? The average rating was 3.7.
5. Would you recommend it to others? 85% said "Yes".
6. Other comments such as, what type of weeds does the product seem to work on, ease of use, time it took for the elimination of the weed, overall satisfaction included:
 - I would recommend to all. Very easy to apply. Very satisfied.
 - Happy to not use glyphosate.
 - Impacted plants within 24 hours.
 - Nice smell.
 - Strong smell not too bad.
 - Worked as directions said.
 - I found the product to be very effective for broad leaf weeds. It was not effective on grasses, and only moderately effective on narrow leaf weeds.
 - Didn't work; will try homemade recipe. Does not work on roots of the weeds.
 - The spray mechanism provided did not work on either of two containers that I tried; I used a spray applicator that I purchased instead.
 - Will buy and encourage landscaper to use.
 - I have ordered the product.

KSB's Office Manager Jan Wind offered her 5-step procedure for maintaining a non-toxic year:

Step 1: Monitor your property for early removal when its easiest to pull by hand or with a weed popper or shuffle hoe. Areas without gravel are easier to maintain. Gravel creates a bazillion tiny little flower pots. As the wind blows these are filled with soil and seeds. Leave natural soil and keep it undisturbed. Know your natives and allow them to help you landscape your property.

Step 2: Monitor your irrigation so you are not encouraging weed growth.

Step 3: Work with the sun. Some weeds are very short lived. Can you live with a few temporary weeds in your gravel?

Step 4: Use a non-toxic weed spray in tough to maintain areas.

Step 5: Feel good about having a few weeds, beautiful native plants and no toxic chemicals on your property.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEYS FROM KSB

As you are likely aware, Yavapai County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to cover the next 10 years. This critical document will guide the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as County Supervisors as they consider development proposals over the next decade. If you are not yet familiar with the process for updating the Comprehensive Plan, [CLICK HERE](#) for an explanation.

Keep Sedona Beautiful is administering a set of surveys to provide residents of Yavapai County an opportunity to communicate their priorities. We're creating a separate survey for each of the eight required elements in the Comprehensive Plan, along with a final survey that covers three topics that we

believe should be added: cultural resources, sustainability and infrastructure.

[THIS PAGE](#) on our website itemizes each of the surveys we have created to date. It will be updated as new surveys are made available.

The surveys are all created using Survey Monkey. If you try to take a survey twice, Survey Monkey will let you know that you've already taken it, and will prevent you from taking it again.

If you are a resident of Yavapai County, please take each of our surveys as they're available.

HELPING SEDONA BUSINESSES IMPROVE OUR DARK SKIES

As part of Keep Sedona Beautiful's decades-long effort to protect the dark skies over Sedona and surrounding areas, the organization is embarking on a new project to retire and replace old outdoor lighting fixtures that don't comply with the City of Sedona's outdoor lighting code. Even though existing fixtures have been "grandfathered in" under the code, the City, the Chamber of Commerce, and KSB have all identified a need to replace older, noncompliant fixtures. In this phase, we're focusing on providing rebates to small businesses in Sedona that would like to improve and modernize their outdoor lights. KSB's long-term goal is to reduce the impact of noncompliant outdoor lighting has on our nighttime sky.

We are excited to announce that KSB has received grants from the Arizona Community Foundation of Sedona and the Sedona Whole Foods Market to accelerate our project. Combined with KSB's own resources, we'll have enough funds to help retrofit dozens of outdoor lighting fixtures around Sedona.

In the first phase of our project, KSB conducted a visual survey of the more developed areas in Sedona to see where improvement was needed. We identified a number of businesses that have old fixture designs that are casting light into the sky, resulting in sky glow, harm to dark skies, and wasted energy. Such lights could be retrofitted to new designs that provide pleasing area lighting, while creating much less glare and annoyance to customers, visitors, and residents.

This fall KSB will begin a dialog with these businesses to explain that attractive new lighting fixtures are readily available and that we're available to help make the switch easy for them. If these businesses are interested, KSB will work with them to find suitable dark-sky-compliant fixtures, and we'll offer substantial rebates for their new fixtures and light bulbs.



Comet NEOWISE over Cathedral Rock near Sedona, July 17, 2020. Courtesy Robert Mueller.

If you would like the chance to volunteer to reach out to local businesses, find and select appropriate fixtures, or provide handyman skills to help replace fixtures, please contact Mark Lawler, KSB Dark Sky Committee Chair, at 928-821-6972 / LawlerMark@Earthlink.net. Thank you for your interesting in preserving Sedona's Dark Skies!

LYNN TERRY RETIRES FROM LITTER LIFTING AFTER 12 YEARS

It was both celebratory and melancholy when litter lifter Lynn Terry began working his route at 6 a.m. along 89A in West Sedona. Lynn has been a Keep Sedona Beautiful volunteer for nearly twelve years, during which time he's covered several routes and would often work 3-4 hours a week to help keep Sedona's roadways litter free. This, however, was his final day on the job.

On this last day, he navigated down a steep slope off the sidewalk, using his picker to grab a piece of paper and a chip bag caught in a bush. *"I HATE litter,"* he declared with passion. *"I couldn't believe a place as beautiful as Sedona would have so much litter!"*

Sixteen years ago, when Lynn and his wife Maudelle moved here from San Francisco, he was 66 and hiked 30 to 40 miles a week, up until two years ago. He often hiked alone or with a neighbor, but also with the Westerners. He started litter lifting to get additional exercise and enjoy the outdoors. He is a former Marine Corps infantry officer and a Vietnam Vet, who landed in the Bay Area after returning from the war and secured a job at IBM. Around that time, he started backpacking with a group of other former marines. After four decades of backpacking in the Sierras, he moved to Red Rock Country where he could continue his outdoor lifestyle.

Lynn's pragmatism and dry humor colors his sentences, providing entertainment for anyone who knows him. *"I-17 looks like a third-world country,"* he proclaimed loudly as he bent over to pick up micro-trash. *"Who knows, there might be dead bodies out there!"* He then changed subjects and talked about growing up in Chicago, which at the time was one of the biggest industrial cities in the world. He remembered how litter free his city was back then. *"You couldn't find litter around my high school or the park that adjoined it."*

The reminiscing ended and he returned to volunteering. *"If I see paper and plastic way back in the woods, I go down and get it,"* he said proudly. *"Sometimes I see Styrofoam and plastic sticking out of packrat nests. When I retrieve it, I have a talk with the packrats!"* Packrats aside, Lynn gets frustrated, not with packrats but with the people who toss their face masks instead of putting them in their pockets. *"How hard is it?"* he exclaimed with a frown. Lynn is like many KSB litter lifters who shy away from attention. They get up early and quietly do their work when others are sleeping. Some residents are not aware that roadside litter nearly doubled in 2020 and the volunteers did routes more often to keep up. It's not magic keeping Sedona litter free, it's dedication by over 75 volunteers. For Lynn, he can now sleep in.

Thank you, Lynn, for your many years of service! Keep Sedona Beautiful has litter lifting routes available. If you are interested, please email Wendy at ksb2@keepsedonabeautiful.org to join the team.



MICRO-TRASH ... THE TINY BIG PROBLEM



Micro-trash is everywhere, and it's building up. What is micro-trash? It's the small bits of garbage that people lose track of or shrug off as insignificant ... the disintegrating plastic cups, the used cigarette butts, the small bits of broken glass and the pull-tabs from soda cans. Micro-trash can be as large as a bottle cap or smaller than the naked eye can see.

Why is micro-trash a problem? The tiny bits of trash can build up and present a big problem for the environment. Microplastics, in particular, get into the earth, water, streams and oceans and the food we eat. It's also dangerous to wildlife when ingested.

Many see micro-trash on the trails and campsites and dismiss it. But some families actually have contests to see who can find the most on a hike or camping trip, with a prize for the winner. The next time you see a piece of micro-trash, bend over and pick it up. It doesn't require a big trash bag, just a willingness for a clean earth.

SPEAKER SERIES UPDATE

In the October and November of this year Keep Sedona Beautiful will host two speakers:

- October features Janie Agyagos, Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, who will be speaking on threatened species.
- November features photographer Ted Grussing, who will be presenting some “eye candy” for the audience. Ted has requested a live session; hopefully we’ll be able to accommodate his request. Ted will be the last speaker for 2021, as we typically don’t feature speakers in December with the holidays.

Stay tuned as to whether these final presentations will be via Zoom or live. If live, KSB will follow social distancing guidelines and request masks for all present.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DICK ELLIS

We’re saddened to report the loss of another icon of the Sedona community. Dick Ellis passed away on July 16, 2021 at the age of 94.

Dick’s contributions to Sedona and the Verde Valley are hard to overstate. He served on the Board of Directors of a host of organizations including Keep Sedona Beautiful, Benefactors of Red Rock State Park, Save Our Ancient Redrocks, and the Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute. He also served on the Steering Committee for the Permanent Protection of the national forest in the Sedona Verde Valley Red Rock Area (CPP).

He served on Sedona’s Planning and Zoning Commission and the Sedona City Council. Dick served as Mayor of Sedona from June, 2002 – June, 2004. Although selected to be the Mayor by the newly seated City Council, it was also this Council that then initiated a public vote of residents to determine future Mayors. His service to the community focused on critical issues such as open communications and transparency in government, transportation, infrastructure, quality of life and efficiency in government. Many of the best practices followed by city government are a direct result of Dick’s work.

Dick was passionate about protecting and preserving our environment and the beauty of Sedona. He was instrumental in working with KSB to pass Sedona’s covered load ordinance, and was the driving force behind the citizen-led effort to keep Hwy 179 from becoming a 4-lane thoroughfare. He was also passionate about the value of quality education and served on the Verde Valley Board Advisory Committee of Yavapai College. Dick was a treasure trove of knowledge of Sedona’s history and of the significant decisions that are the underpinning of Sedona’s attraction for people from all over the world.

His retirement was simply a transition to a life of service, for which we’re eternally grateful. Thank you, Dick.



News You Can Use

City Adopts Climate Action Plan

Sedona’s City Council adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) on July 14th. The finalized document is now available to read on the City’s website. The CAP sets an ambitious target of reducing community-wide emissions by 50% by the year 2030. Additionally, the plan lays out adaptation actions that will make the community more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

The plan outlines fifty actions the City and partner organizations will take over the next decade. These actions are divided into five sectors: building & energy, transportation & land use, materials & consumption, water & natural systems, and climate resilience. To review the Plan, please visit [SedonaAZ.gov/sustainability](https://www.sedonaaz.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44081/637630843978613308).

<https://www.sedonaaz.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44081/637630843978613308>

From Darcy Hitchcock, Co-Founder, Sustainability Alliance

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Next Sustainability Alliance Community Conversation

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Next Sustainability Alliance Community Conversation

How to Live a River-friendly Life?

Oct 21, 10-11:30 via Zoom

Hosted by the Sustainability Alliance and OLLI

Free but registration is required

The Verde River is one of the Southwest's last flowing rivers, providing homes to dozens of species of plants and animals and water to millions of people. However, summer flows in the Verde are rapidly declining, threatening to reduce this precious resource to memory. Join us for a 1.5 hour conversation about how Friends of the Verde River is helping give homeowners, businesses, and communities a new voice in saving the Verde through their River Friendly lifestyle concept. There we'll discuss what challenges the river faces and what steps you can take in your daily life to ensure a healthy river keeps flowing for future generations. Come prepared to share your experiences on the Verde and the waterways that feed it, what you value about the lands and waters we live and recreate on, and what it means to you to be part of the solution.

Register <https://yavapai.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItcO2grjssHNI4nbWcU4ThnJTWo5Pq79-U>

Nonprofits get together to spread the good word

Keep Sedona Beautiful has reached out to members of the [Sustainability Alliance](#) to commit to hosting a shared information table at the local farmers markets. So far, the groups that have agreed to host, along with KSB, include [Friends of the Verde River](#) (FVR), [Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance](#) (NAZCCA), [Sedona Recycles](#), [Gardens for Humanity](#) and [Healthy World Sedona](#). These groups will take turns hosting a table at least once a month with information on the Alliance and all groups, in general. Each week, a participating organization will host the table, providing educational materials on Dark Skies, KSB's mission and programs, healthy living habits, gardening, waste reduction, recycling, water and energy saving strategies. The key offering at the SA table is the opportunity to meet representatives from the SA community and learn how to connect with these vital volunteer organizations.

This is a great way for residents to learn more about sustainability-related initiatives and the great work that nonprofits in the greater Sedona area are doing. Look for the SA table at the Markets. Share the good news!

Tool Lending Library update

Sedona Tools Empowering People (STEP) is seeking interested volunteers to expand its core group of volunteers for moving the program forward! As you recall from a previous newsletter, the STEP library is a tool library that lends tools out to the public instead of books. It's an innovative program that was bought to life by NAU student Kylee Musslewhite.

The STEP inventory of tools is also accepting tool donations. To donate tools, use the form on the NAZCCA.org website and a volunteer will connect with you for tool pickup. Once the Library opens later this fall, it will be housed in a shed at the Sedona Library, managed through an online tool lending platform. Any electric tools will be powered by a solar energy generating system!



STEP has been funded through a project grant from the City of Sedona and a generous donation from a community member for research into such programs. If you'd like to join the STEP launch team by lending your talents to this community building project, please use the contact information in this Keep Sedona Beautiful newsletter. Keep Sedona Beautiful Trustee Peggy Chaikin has been collaborating with NAZCCA volunteers, our Sedona Librarian, Judy Poe, and Community organizer, Jenna Ortega, to bring the STEP program to Sedona. One of STEP's lending areas will be to collaborate with KSB and Sedona Recycles for Zero Waste Events. STEP will also participate with the City of Sedona in Fix-it Clinics and support Gardens for Humanity through garden tool lending. STEP's vision is to provide resources to our community while reducing waste.

For more information on volunteering or contributing to the Lending Library, visit:

<https://www.nazcca.org/tool-library>

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News You Can Use cont. from page 13

Fly Friendly Agreement Update

Keep Sedona Beautiful representatives involved in Noise Abatement attended a meeting this summer at the Sedona Chamber of Commerce (SCC) to participate in ongoing discussions about air noise in Sedona and to touch base on the Fly Friendly Agreement that has recently gone into effect. This Agreement's sole focus is on helicopter activity on behalf of tourists. KSB was a key player in working with others to get this Agreement into place. Other partners in attendance at this recent update meeting were Candace Strauss (SCC CEO), Jamaica Bergstrom (Chief Pilot Guidance Air), Ed Rose (Sedona Airport General Manager), Al Comello (SCC Chairman) and Eric Brunner (Sedona Air Tours). A follow-up meeting is scheduled for late September.



Whereas this group continues to be focused on keeping the Noise Abatement Agreement alive, there have been numerous resident complaints coming into the airport website about noise from other aircraft (private planes, jets, etc.). These planes are exempt from the Agreement. If you're concerned about the "noise over Sedona", consider voicing your concerns using the link below:

<https://sedonaairport.org/aircraft-noise-feedback-v2/>

An additional area of interest includes the feasibility of replacing the smaller, local airports (Sedona, Cottonwood) with a regional airport to serve the Verde Valley. Some KSB members and others have begun to delve into this possibility as a way to address the continuing problem of overhead noise. If you are concerned about this noise and support the prospect of a regional airport, consider contacting Yavapai County Supervisor Donna Michaels using the link below:

<https://supervisordonnamichaels.com/contact-donna/>

If anyone is interested in working with KSB on noise pollution, please contact the KSB office.

A Simple Thought: Put More into the World Than You Take

Yes, it's basic and simple: are you giving more ... to society, your community, the environment and the global economy ... than you're taking? Are you part of the problem or part of the solution? Something to think about. Check out this blog post for some food for thought:

<https://www.raycandersonfoundation.org/articles/net-positive-leaving-the-world-better-than-you-found-it>



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Keep Sedona Beautiful
Environmental Stewards Since 1972

Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Contributions are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

To donate to KSB, or become a member, [click here](#), or print this page and mail it, along with a check for your membership dues to:

Keep Sedona Beautiful
360 Brewer Road
Sedona, AZ 86336-6012

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(KSB is an environmental organization. To conserve paper, ink and other natural resources, and to reduce our carbon footprint, we communicate electronically whenever possible.)

_____ I prefer to remain anonymous in public membership lists

_____ I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.

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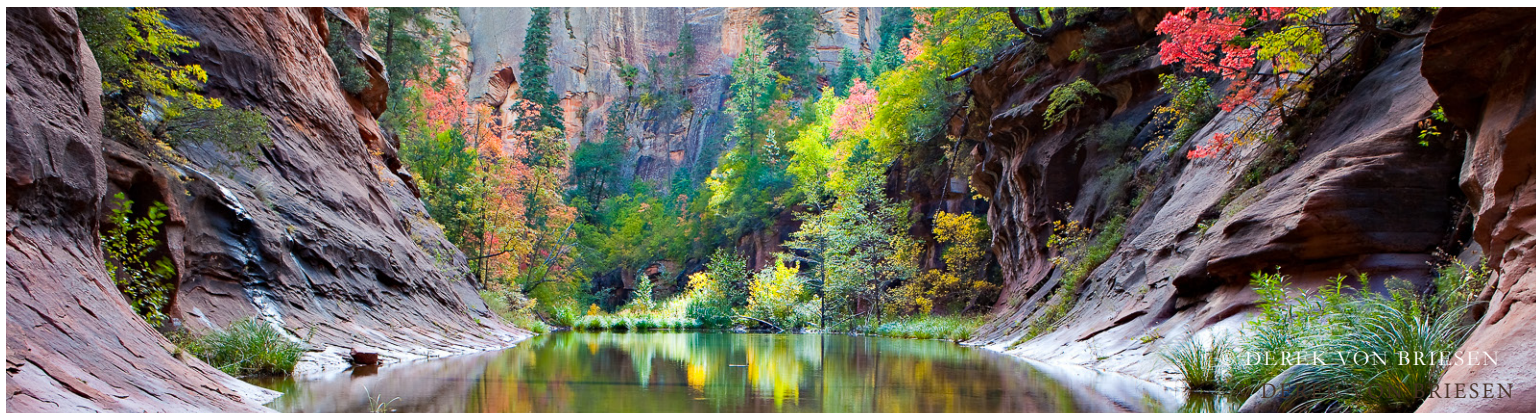
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If You Care About the Beautiful Nature that Surrounds Sedona, THEN IT'S YOU WE ARE LOOKING FOR!

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