



KSB eNews Today

Celebrating Our First 50 Years

Issue: March 9, 2026

KSB Member,



PRESERVING THE WONDER™ SPEAKER SERIES

[WITH WENDY HODGSON, SENIOR RESEARCH BOTANIST](#)

MARCH 18, 2026, 5:00 P.M.,

(DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 P.M.)

360 BREWER RD., SEDONA

[Print or view press release here.](#)

Keep Sedona Beautiful will hold its next Preserving the Wonder™ Speaker Series event on Wednesday, March 18th at 5:00 pm., doors open at 4:30 pm. This month's speaker is Wendy Hodgson, Senior Research Botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden. The event is free, open to the public and will be held at KSB's EcoHub, 360 Brewer Road, Sedona. Carpooling is appreciated and recommended. Please visit the KSB website, www.keepsedonabeautiful.org for details.

Wendy will discuss agaves significance to indigenous peoples. Researchers have revealed that pre-Columbian farmers grew no less than six and possibly eight or more domesticated agaves in Arizona dating to at least A.D. 600. These relict agaves have persisted in the landscape to the present, unchanged since they were last cultivated within a prehistoric cultural context, thus providing a rare opportunity to study pre-Columbian nutrition, trade, migration and agricultural practices. Understanding these plants and their ecological/cultural roles requires interdisciplinary collaboration that must involve Indigenous Peoples.

Wendy is Herbarium Curator Emerita and Senior Research Botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden where she has worked for 52 years. Her studies include the flora of southwest U.S. and northern Mexico, especially the Grand Canyon, agaves, including pre-contact agave domesticates, yuccas, and Hesperoyuccas. She believes in diverse

participation and collaboration, including community scientists and especially Indigenous Peoples whose voices we have neglected to hear far too long.

The Preserving the Wonder™ Speaker series is held on the third Wednesday of each month.

[For over 50 years, Keep Sedona Beautiful has been dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic beauty and natural environment of Sedona and the Verde Valley. For more information about Keep Sedona Beautiful, please visit www.keepsedonabeautiful.org.](http://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org)



PRESERVING THE WONDER™

PreservingTheWonder.org

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