

KEEP SEDONA BEAUTIFUL

Preserving the Wonder

Environmental Art



SUMMER 2026

KSB EcoHub Educational Garden

 @Keep Sedona Beautiful



Preserving the Wonder

Summer 2026

**KSB's Quarterly
Environmental
Message:**

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

**Keep Sedona Beautiful's mission
is to protect and sustain the scenic
beauty and natural environment of
Sedona and the Verde Valley.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nature is often the artist's muse, so it isn't surprising art creations are filled with a love of nature, expressed in many mediums, shapes and dimensions. At Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB) our new garden is like a work-of-art...our canvas is the earth, our palette is the flower, and our medium is the plant. We dabble around the canvas with textures, like mulch, and we add objects, like statues, to give the canvas depth and interest. Our canvas is constantly evolving, because everyone who participates brings their own personality, energy and creativeness, so it's only natural it's a work-in-progress.

Many people strive all their life to live, walk, eat and age naturally, because they feel it brings their spirit closer to nature. Those of us who are spending time in the KSB garden, either assisting or sitting, use the garden to recharge from life's challenges. Every moment brings nature to the forefront. You may hear 30 songbirds in a single sitting or the whoosh of hummingbirds. You may witness a herd of deer stopping for a drink or the flutter of a butterfly.

No need to travel to exotic places to experience serenity...just come to the KSB garden, sit on a bench and enjoy being a part of art, or you can participate and change the palette.



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

**Join KSB and help us protect
the environment of Sedona and
the Verde Valley through our
programs and initiatives.**



ART AS ACTIVISM

Artists are wielding their creative talents as powerful tools for change. Painters, musicians, sculptors and writers are creating visceral, emotional experiences that statistics and scientific reports alone cannot achieve. These activists are proving that art doesn't just reflect our world. Art can help change the world.

What unites diverse artists working on environmental themes is their understanding that advocacy requires more than data. It requires emotional connection. Scientific papers document climate change, but art makes us feel it.

Think about it. We relate to our world in a more immediate way through our emotions. When art and activism merge, the result resonates far beyond concert halls and gallery walls.

In Sedona and the Verde Valley, where art and nature have always been intertwined, we have a unique opportunity to harness creative expression in service of conservation. Every painting, sculpture, song and story that celebrates our natural world or mourns its loss contributes to a larger cultural shift toward environmental stewardship.

Courtesy
of
James
Havens



Credit: "Landscape of Change"
by Jill Peltó, jillpelto.com



Consider the following ways that you can to engage:

- Encourage schools to integrate environmental art projects into their curricula.
- Support local artists who address environmental themes in their work. Our vibrant arts community offers natural synergies between our cultural and conservation missions.
- Attend exhibitions, concerts and readings that feature environmental content.
- Share environmental art on social media to amplify its message.
- Commission artwork for environmental campaigns or educational materials.
- Invite artists to collaborate on conservation projects and events.
- Visit museums and galleries featuring environmental artists. Many institutions now host exhibitions focused on climate change and conservation.
- Choose creativity over complacency.

Get inspired. Take action. Support art as activism in our community and watch how creative voices amplify our shared commitment to Preserving the Wonder™.

The following articles introduce you to just a few of the many artists whose work has been inspired by their environmental activism.

PAINTERS ARE BRINGING CLIMATE REALITY TO LIFE

Anchorage-based artist James Havens takes a breathtaking approach to wildlife advocacy, creating life-sized, monumental oil-on-canvas paintings that force viewers to reckon with endangered species on an almost overwhelming scale. His "CRAIG – Tuskers of Alkebulan" project centers on one of Africa's most legendary super tuskers – a bull elephant named Craig, whose tusks were so enormous they nearly swept the ground as he walked.

Havens chose Craig deliberately. As one of only a handful of surviving super tuskers on the continent, Craig embodied both the success of decades of dedicated conservation in Kenya's Amboseli ecosystem and the heartbreaking fragility of what remains. By painting Craig at true, life-sized scale on a canvas measuring ten by fifteen feet, he eliminated the comfortable distance between viewer and subject, making the elephant's magnificence and the urgency of his survival, impossible to ignore. Sadly, Craig passed away on January 3, 2026, at the age of 54, succumbing to natural causes after a long, remarkable life. His death reduced the number of known super tuskers in Amboseli to just nine, underscoring the profound loss that Havens' canvas now memorializes.

Jill Peltó creates watercolor paintings by graphing actual climate data onto landscapes: temperature increases, glacier retreat, declining bird populations. The graphs become integrated into mountain ranges, forests and coastlines, making the statistical reality of environmental change visually inseparable from the places being affected. Her work appears in scientific publications and art galleries alike, bridging the divide between empirical data and emotional response.

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Credit: "Whale Bay, Antarctica No. 4" by Zaria Forman, www.zariaforman.com

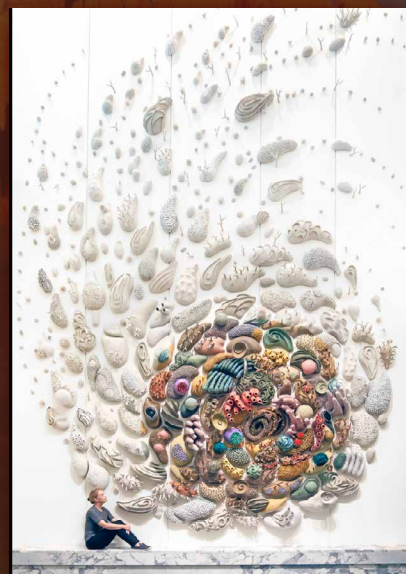
Zaria Forman creates breathtaking pastel drawings of melting icebergs and disappearing glaciers on such a monumental scale that viewers feel enveloped by her Arctic landscapes. The massive drawings, some spanning over eight feet, aren't just beautiful, they're urgent testimonials to a vanishing ecosystem. Forman travels to remote polar regions, photographing landscapes threatened by climate change, then recreates them with meticulous detail in her studio. Her work has been displayed everywhere from Times Square billboards to the United Nations, bringing the reality of melting ice caps to millions who will never see these places in person.

SCULPTORS ARE CREATING LIVING ART

An emotionally powerful argument for saving our oceans comes not from a scientific report, but from a wall of hand-sculpted ceramic coral. Courtney Mattison believes art has a responsibility beyond aesthetics. She hand-sculpts intricately detailed ceramic works inspired by the fragile beauty of coral reefs and the human-caused threats they face. She holds an interdisciplinary degree in marine ecology and ceramic sculpture, combining her passions to raise awareness of the effects of climate change on reef ecosystems. The emotional heart of her work lies in a stark visual contrast. Her installations pair vibrant, colorful reef forms with other reef forms rendered in ghostly white, giving the viewer a direct representation of coral bleaching, in which heat-stressed corals expel the algae that give them color, exposing the skeleton beneath.

Olafur Eliasson and Minik Rosing's massive installation "Ice Watch, 2014" brought Greenland's melting ice sheets directly to city streets in London, Paris and Copenhagen. The artists transported enormous blocks of glacial ice, destined to melt into the ocean regardless, to public spaces where passersby watched them disappear, heard them crack and touched their ancient surfaces. The work transformed abstract data about ice loss into an immediate, sensory experience of environmental loss happening in real time.

Confluence (Our Changing Seas V), Courtney Mattison, 2018. Photo by Amanda Brooks



Olafur Eliasson and Minik Rosing Ice Watch, 2014 Photo: Justin Sutcliffe



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Keep Sedona Beautiful
Reminds all members
to patronize our generous sponsors.

Photo: Krists Luhaers // @Kristall

MUSICIANS ARE COMPOSING FOR THE PLANET



Musicians have long used their talents for environmental advocacy, but today's artists are integrating ecological themes into their work with increased urgency. British trip-hop pioneer **Bonobo** released "Fragments" as an explicitly environmental album, with proceeds supporting environmental organizations. Each track was created while contemplating specific ecosystems under threat, transforming anxiety about environmental degradation into hauntingly beautiful soundscapes.

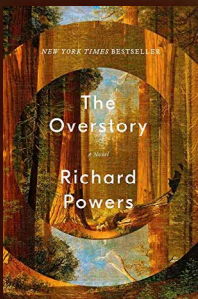


Icelandic artist **Björk** has made environmental advocacy central to her art. Her "Biophilia" project combined music, apps and educational materials to explore humanity's relationship with nature. More recently, she's used her platform to fight industrial development in Iceland's highlands, composing music specifically to raise awareness about threatened wilderness areas.

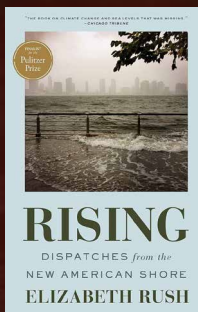


The band **Radiohead** has made climate action inseparable from their music, crafting songs that grapple with environmental anxiety while organizing their tours around minimal carbon footprints. Lead singer Thom Yorke has stated that ignoring the environmental crisis while making music would feel like "fiddling while Rome burns."

WRITERS ARE CHRONICLING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE



Author **Richard Powers** won the Pulitzer Prize for "The Overstory," a novel that makes trees themselves into compelling characters while exploring humanity's devastating relationship with forests. The book has been credited with changing readers' relationships with nature, demonstrating fiction's unique ability to evoke empathy for non-human life. Mr. Powers researched forest ecology for years, transforming scientific knowledge into narrative that helps readers feel, not just understand, what we lose when we destroy ancient forests



Another winner of the Pulitzer Prize, poet **Elizabeth Rush's** "Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore" combines lyrical prose with journalistic investigation of communities facing sea level rise. Her work documents disappearing coastlines while giving voice to Americans already experiencing climate displacement. By making the personal impacts of environmental change visceral and immediate, her writing cuts through the psychological and emotional distance that allows many to ignore the reality of climate change.

Retaining the Wonder

Own a Masterpiece. Support our Mission.



Help Transform This...



Into This...



"SedonaCanvas One" by James Havens
Original Oil on Canvas — 4' × 8'
Mounted for Framing
(click on image to view)



Keep Sedona Beautiful is honored to offer an extraordinary opportunity for you to own *"Sedona Canvas One,"* an original 4' × 8' oil painting by renowned Alaskan artist James Havens.

This sweeping, luminous landscape captures the drama, color, and spirit of Sedona's red rock country with breathtaking detail. Donated by Mr. Havens to KSB to support our mission, this work can become the centerpiece of your home, business, or private collection.

Yours for a Donation of \$12,500 or more

Your gift directly funds construction of a new retaining wall to complete the border of our EcoHub Educational Garden — a space where students, community members and visitors learn about native plants, sustainable landscaping, and the natural heritage of our region.

Our Mission:

*To preserve and protect the scenic beauty
and natural environment
of Sedona and the Verde Valley*

Call 928-282-4938 or email
info@keepsedonabeautiful for details.
www.KeepSedonaBeautiful.org

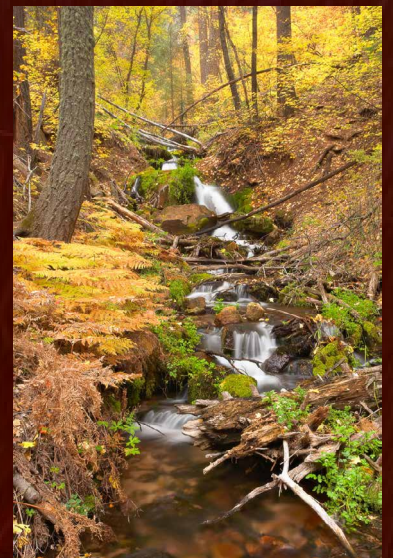
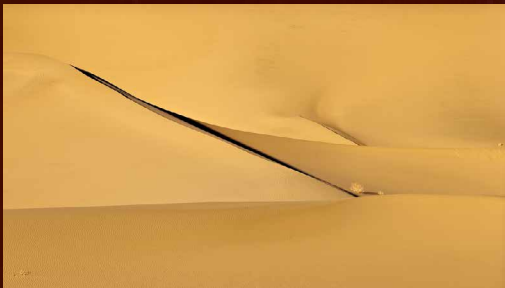
CAPTURE THE WONDER



Acclaimed Sedona landscape photographer Derek von Briesen has generously donated a collection of photographs to KSB. These images capture the American Southwest's most iconic and fragile landscapes, from Glen Canyon's hidden canyons to Death Valley's sculpted dunes, from the Mogollon Rim's vibrant forests to Monument Valley's towering buttes. Each photograph reflects stillness, grandeur and the enduring importance of conservation.

These limited-edition prints can be yours as a thank you for donating to Keep Sedona Beautiful. All donations fund KSB's programs.

For detailed information about this opportunity or to see larger versions of any of these photographs, visit [this page on our website](https://www.keeppedonabeautiful.org), call 928-282-4838 or email us at info@keeppedonabeautiful.org.



THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE CONTRIBUTED BY DEANNA BINDLEY

In just a few short days, our lives changed forever. In case you weren't aware, the Bear Mountain area northwest of Sedona has had a terrible OHV problem for many years. The local rental companies have concentrated their customers in this area without regard for the residents or the environment. The OHV traffic along 152c creates a thick layer of dust that covers and kills all roadside trees, and this same dust is currently damaging the rest of the vegetation. Additionally, the noise from these screaming machines has destroyed quality of life for local residents while also scaring the wildlife away. Life in Bear Mountain was a nightmare.

Not knowing what to do and desperate for help, in January of 2020, I called Keep Sedona Beautiful and was directed to then-president Craig Swanson. Craig immediately went to work to find a solution to this terrible problem. After several

years of working meetings with the the Greater Sedona Recreation Collaborative (GSRC), Bear Mountain was given the best gift possible. We were given permission to reroute traffic away from the homes that were most affected by the dust and noise.

As soon as the reroute project was approved, an old abandoned road was reopened and all traffic was diverted to this new road and away from residents. It's been a month now, and I'm happy to report that our quality of life has improved dramatically. Dust levels are down, noise levels are down, and there seems to be a new level of respect for this ancient, beautiful and sacred land.

Without KSB and their board of trustees, this project would never have happened. KSB worked with governmental agencies, NGOs, nonprofits and others to solve this problem.

Bear Mountain residents would like to thank KSB and Craig Swanson for their never-ending commitment, GSRC for recommending this project, the Forest Service for approving it, Arizona State Parks for the grant money that paid for this project and American Conservation Experience (ACE) for overseeing the project. Thanks to Rob Bauer at Bauer Built Trails for doing the dirty work that brought this project to life. It has truly been a game-changer for our residents. Thank you all.

Editor's Note: Without the super-human persistence of DeAnna Bindley, this project would never have happened. For six long years she has tirelessly fought to control the damage being done to the land and to residents by OHV abuse and overuse. Thank you, DeAnna!



Rerouted road on the left and the residential only entrance on the right

IN MEMORY OF PAT O'HALLERAN (1947 - 2026)



My wife and I had the good fortune of getting to know Pat O'Halleran after she and her husband Tom O'Halleran settled back in Sedona from their time in Washington DC. We shared a love of great Sonoran food and a passion for justice and compassion. Pat cared deeply about protecting our environment and our public lands and was a stalwart support for Tom who served as President of Keep Sedona Beautiful and as our representative in the US Congress. She was as genuine as they come and will be greatly missed.

- Craig Swanson, Vice President Keep Sedona Beautiful

In lieu of flowers, Tom and Pat's wishes are for you to donate in Pat's memory to either [Keep Sedona Beautiful](#) or [Blood Cancer United \(formerly Leukemia & Lymphoma Society\)](#).

[Please click here to read more about Pat.](#)

Keep Sedona Beautiful *Awards of Excellence* 2026

Keep Sedona Beautiful celebrated outstanding community leadership on April 24, 2026 at our Annual Awards of Excellence ceremony, recognizing individuals, companies and organizations whose work supports KSB's mission "to protect and sustain the scenic beauty and natural environment of Sedona and the Verde Valley." We're featuring 3 of our awardees in this issue of Preserving the Wonder™ and the remaining 3 in our Fall 2026 issue.



Thomasene Cardona, a citizen of the Yavapai-Apache Nation and Northern Arizona University graduate student in Sustainable Communities, was awarded a KSB Award of Excellence for Cultural Heritage. Her commitment to teaching the Clarkdale Yavapai community about their culture is

exemplary and has garnered the attention of NAU professor Emanuel Preciado, PhD and Arizona State University (ASU) professor and fellow Yavapai-Apache Nation citizen Maurice Crandall, PhD, who have provided historical references and mentorship. Thomasene is also co-chairing the KSB Indigenous People's Awareness Committee, where she focuses on teaching Yavapai history, culture and communication skills to KSB members.

The Yavapai culture is similar to many cultures around the world where differences in protocol, tradition and language create barriers to communication and understanding. Breaking through barriers requires time, education, personal relationships, patience and respect, but also a willingness to listen. Listening and a desire to learn are the main ingredients to good communication. Thomasene spent her early life surrounded by the teachings of her elders, who taught her critical listening and leadership skills, which she now shares through her project, the [Yavapai Land and Culture Collective](#). Although the project is new, she has already organized several teaching opportunities through storytelling, which is a traditional way of educating in many Indigenous cultures. Stories provide a method to teach food gathering, ethics, tradition, language, humor and many other important lessons.

Like storytelling, Thomasene understands the importance of relationships in communication and incorporates person-to-person contact when practical. Unlike electronic device learning, which is often rapid-fire stimulation, speech pauses the mind and gives time to explore, understand and reflect. Stories relay humor, critical thinking and morality, all packaged into a fun way to learn.

KSB presented [Spring Graf](#) with an award for Community Service for creating a centralized hub that makes volunteering easy and accessible: [Volunteer Sedona & the Verde Valley](#). Inspired by her work after the Maui wildfires, Graf launched the nonprofit in 2024. In just six months, it grew from 26 to more than 65 partner organizations, recruited over 559 volunteers and logged 1,600 hours of service.

Through a user-friendly online platform, volunteer fairs, Weeks of Service, and signature events, Spring has made it effortless for both residents and visitors to find meaningful ways to give back. She has also helped elevate the idea of "voluntourism" in the Verde Valley, inviting travelers to make volunteering part of their Sedona experience, turning visitors into stakeholders in our community's well-being.



From left to right: Nancy Rominger, Lisa Page, Alice Madar, Spring Graf, Caroline Morgan, Thomasene Cardona, Dr. Emanuel Preciado, Dr. Maurice Crandall. Photo by Larry Kane



cont. on page 9

cont. from page 8

Lisa Page from **Local First Arizona** accepted our award for Sustainability. Since 2003, Local First Arizona has championed the belief that strong local economies and a healthy environment go hand in hand. Through education, resources, and one-on-one support, they empower small businesses across Arizona to become more sustainable, resilient, and community-centered.



Local First Arizona's flagship Green Business Boot Camp brings that vision to life. This free, seven-week program guides locally owned businesses through practical sustainability improvements in energy, water, waste and transportation. The goal of the program is to achieve a minimum 20% reduction in resource consumption. Local First has graduated businesses ranging from farms to wineries to small retailers, each leaving with a concrete sustainability plan and access to low-interest green microloans to fund their projects. By offering programs in both English and Spanish, they ensure that sustainability education reaches every corner of our diverse community, removing barriers and building a greener Verde Valley for all.

DISCOVER THE WONDER VOLUNTEER ADVENTURE GUIDES NEEDED

Do you love nature and enjoy working with young people? We're looking for nature enthusiasts, passionate about sharing their love for our beautiful environment and dedicated to Preserving the Wonder™ of Sedona for generations to come.

Keep Sedona Beautiful, the oldest environmental nonprofit in Sedona, has just launched a new program, Discover the Wonder – An Environmental Education Adventure for Sedona and Verde Valley young people ages 10 – 17. The program has launched and has already received rave reviews.

We have 10 field trips planned this fall and more for the spring of 2027. Each field trip requires five adult Adventure Guides who lead small groups of students through our EcoHub Educational Garden. Each field trip is scheduled between 8:30 am and 11:45 am during the week.

Join us for as many Discover the Wonder adventures as you like. Training is provided. Email Diane Kristoff, KSB Education Director, at DJK@DinoDianesAdventures.com or call her at 480-390-7787.

What has been the reaction from teachers, students and Adventure Guides?

"Our 6th-grade students from Camp Verde Middle School recently had the pleasure of visiting the Sedona KSB Eco-Hub (3/5), and the experience was nothing short of exceptional. From start to finish, the program was professionally organized, deeply engaging and perfectly focused on the wonders of Sedona and the surrounding areas." - Eric Hansen, Teacher

"Sedona was once a sea and the rocks are red because of rust." - Leana

"Sketching, reading and answering." - Alondra

"Knowing the names of plants that I've seen and the interesting stories behind them." - Lily

"That the native people used the root of the parry agave as gum." - Hope

"I learned about the plants that were really cool. This place is fun!" - Layla

"To really, really respect nature." - Jonathan

"It was fun and rewarding for me to interact with children and to see their excitement for learning about native plants and their many uses. The students thought it was cool that plants were used by the Indigenous people for shampoo and sandal-making."

- Adventure Guide Julie

"Even after living in Sedona for 44 years, it gives me joy to revisit old friends through the eyes of kids, just discovering its wonders for the first time!" - Adventure Guide Richard





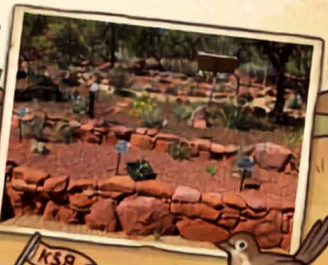
HELP WANTED: MAGICAL GARDENERS!



OUR ECOHUB NEEDS YOUR LOVE!

YOUR MISSION:

- SEDUCE THE WEEDS WITH KINDNESS (OR PULL THEM CAREFULLY)
- INTRODUCE NATIVE PLANTS TO THEIR NEW HOMES
- NURTURE WITH LOVE & COMPOST
- CREATE HARMONY WITH STONES
- CHAT WITH CACTI (OPTIONAL)





ECOHUB VOLUNTEER TIMES: WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS, 8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM.

TO JOIN, YOU MUST FIRST SIGN UP!

CONTACT US AT
INFO@KEEPSEDONABEAUTIFUL.ORG
 OR CALL 928-282-4938.

IN MEMORY OF BILL KUSNER (1938 - 2026)

Past President of KSB and one of the most active and influential of Sedona's residents, Bill Kusner, passed away on May 15.

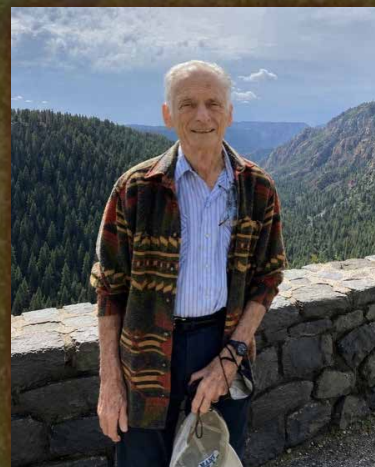
Bill served on the KSB Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2012 and was President from 1999-2002. He and his wife Justine were KSB litter lifters continuously from 1997 until 2018, owning a stretch of Highway 179 just south of the Village of Oak Creek. Both were honored with a KSB Award of Excellence for Community Service in 2019. Bill and Justine were among the first generous contributors to the KSB Endowment Fund.

A passionate advocate for protection of our public lands, in 2003 Bill was instrumental in the creation of the Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute, and in 2004, Bill and Justine won a Volunteers of the Year Award from the Greater Sedona Community Foundation. Bill also served on the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council for 15 years, including nine years on the Planning & Zoning Committee. Bill and Justine were also very active in Friends of the Forest (FOF). Justine served as President of FOF in 1999 and 2000. Combined, they contributed over 11,000 hours to that organization, working in nearly every capacity to support the Forest Service.

In his final years, Bill resided at Sedona Winds Assisted Living and loved working daily on puzzles ranging from 200 to 2000 pieces. He enjoyed a daily walk and a good Manhattan. Sedona will miss one of its foremost volunteers.

A Funeral Mass for Bill will be held on Friday 6/26/26 at 10:00 am at St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Church, 180 St. John Vianney Lane, Sedona, AZ 86336, followed by a simple reception in the church hall. Burial at the Sedona Community Cemetery will be private.

In Bill's honor his family has asked that in lieu of flowers please make a donation to either Friends of the [Forest at Friends of the Forest Sedona](#) or to Keep Sedona Beautiful at [Memorial Gift - Keep Sedona Beautiful](#). If payment by check is preferred, make check payable to Keep Sedona Beautiful, 360 Brewer Rd., Sedona, AZ 86336.



DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN WITH AS LITTLE FUSS AS POSSIBLE

That is Carolyn Peterson's favorite motto. She and her husband, Norris Peterson, are living up to that creed. That is why they have created a legacy gift for Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB). "A nice thing about creating a bequest is that it brings you peace of mind knowing that your favorite non-profit organizations are in the queue for a benefit after you're gone," Carolyn says.

Carolyn and Norris have been active supporters of KSB since they left the Seattle area and arrived in Sedona twenty-two years ago. Their architect suggested to Norris that he get involved in KSB's Annual Awards Committee. Before he knew it, he was chairing the event and soon became a Trustee, which led to his becoming one of KSB's past presidents.

"In 2004, a close friend had a litter lifter route and asked me if I would help. That's when I started litter lifting, and I'm still on the same mile," Carolyn notes. "I've been up and down 179 and helped on 89A, in Cottonwood and more." She also volunteered to help manage the annual KSB Native Plant Workshop, which entailed finding volunteers, speakers, door prizes and organizing schedules.

The pride Norris and Carolyn feel for KSB's involvement in making a difference for this beautiful city is infectious. As Norris tells it, "KSB has been the arbiter for sustainable growth and beautifying the city by limiting signage, working on building codes, demanding earthtone colors, ensuring Sedona's Dark Skies certification and keeping trash off the streets for more than 50 years. Without KSB you could have garish billboards, glaring lights, litter on the streets and neighborhoods created without regard to the natural beauty in which we live. KSB has been and continues to be a stalwart guardian of the whole environment for which we chose to move to Sedona. This is the foundation of why we have made this legacy gift."

When they decided to create a living trust, it wasn't difficult for them to choose their favorite charities to honor. Norris and Carolyn wish to give a bequest to KSB's endowment and encourage others to do the same, so that it grows large enough for KSB to draw annually from the accrued gains. "If the endowment is well funded, then KSB can start each year with enough to support the staff and/or the building. The other income generated during the year can be used to fund the programs and projects," Norris notes. Other KSB members should find this an appealing way to support KSB.



They have been very happy with their estate planning attorney. "First, he reviewed our basic information and gave us an easy alternative to a bloated trust—dividing the estate into two pieces—the trust and the charitable bequests (non-trust). The non-trust part of our estate plan is administered by the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), which has the tools to offer personal giving options both during and after our lifetime. By working with ACF, we are able to expand the way we can give back to the causes we care about. The non-trust piece for the legacy gifts (multiple non-profits) is only a few pages and can be easily and painlessly updated over time" Norris beams.

Norris remarks that he and Carolyn are not from wealthy families; therefore, "we grew up without role models for charitable giving. Building a lasting legacy is a learning and evolving process. Putting together our latest Estate Plan has motivated us to be more aggressive in doing more good while we are both still alive – we think it is the right thing to be doing."

Norris tells the story of their first view of Sedona. They had driven to Sedona from Phoenix at night. As they awoke the next morning, they were awestruck when they opened the curtains to see the magnificent Red Rocks. They felt then that it was imperative to do everything they could to help preserve that splendor, with as little fuss as possible.

WHAT? YOU'RE LEAVING US?

Lynn Zonakis and Craig Swanson, officers of the board and long-time supporters of Keep Sedona Beautiful recently moved to Asheville, North Carolina. But they will continue to volunteer as board members and to support the organization with their philanthropy. And they'll be back once a month every year.

For more than a decade they have walked hundreds of miles picking up trash on the roadways of Sedona so that our visitors and residents can say, "this is such a clean town - we have no trash." They have also advocated for appropriate housing and have had a major role in creating the exciting new Eco-Garden at KSB that provides children of all ages an immersive experience in the beauty and education of the high desert.

"We have a lot vested in this 54-year-old organization," Lynn says. "And we support the goodness of what KSB does now and in the future so that it is here for everyone 50 years from now," Craig adds. That is why they have given a generous multi-year gift to KSB and pledged a significant endowment from their estate to the organization.

Even though they will be gone, their philanthropy and their good works live on. Thank you, Lynn and Craig, for your leadership.

If you would like to support KSB with an estate gift and/or creating a sustaining donation, please text or call Carla Williams, president, at 928 821-5725 or email her at ksb@keepsedonabeautiful.org.



WELCOME, DAHL RESTAURANT GROUP

KSB welcomes the Dahl Restaurant Group as a new business sponsor at the Bear Mountain sponsorship level. You can learn more about chef Lisa Dahl's five local restaurants at www.cheflisadahl.com.



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JON LINFORD: HELPING OTHERS HAVE PEACE OF MIND

KSB will sponsor conversations with local attorney Jon Linford about getting your future financial plans in order, so we thought we would let you know more about this Morris Hall partner. Conversations with Jon will take place at KSB's EcoHub, 360 Brewer Road, Sedona, in September and October 2026. Please watch for an invitation in your email. There is no charge and of course no obligation. Just information.

The first important thing to know about Jon is that he's an avid hiker and mountain biker with his family of six. He's also on the advisory board of Arizona Community Foundation in Sedona and has been living in and contributing to our community for more than ten years.

Jon's undergraduate education at BYU led to a degree in political science, and to his interest in the law. His law degree is from University of Arizona. His expertise in estate planning germinated during his tenure with the first law firm he worked for. He was a litigator and worked on all areas of practice--from a bevy of medical, to divorce, to criminal law cases. It was the estate law where he felt he might be able to be a facilitator, helping people avoid "the fight" - also referred to as "probate."

"I saw that we could set up estate plans and protect families. This is a niche area, very specialized, which changes constantly. I really enjoy the challenge," Jon says, "and I like being able to educate people." Since the Phoenix-based law firm of Morris Hall was looking for someone to head up their Sedona/Prescott/Flagstaff division of estate planning, Jon was ready to give them a presence and realize his calling to help families have peace of mind.

Jon understands the hesitancy that anyone faces when considering estate planning. "I was doing estate planning for three years before I did my own," he says. At that time, he and his wife were about to take their first international trip without the kids. "I thought, wouldn't it be embarrassing if the plane went down and I didn't have an estate plan in place? What would happen to the kids?" He realized that before they boarded the plane, he needed to just push through and get his affairs in order.

There are so many reasons to have an estate plan and Jon points out that the two kinds of probate (living probate and death probate) is one of the reasons. Probate court is cumbersome and delays the family's ability to find closure after death. "But the worst probate is the living probate; that is if someone becomes incapacitated, and you don't have your ducks in a row." Jon continues, "if you have to get a guardianship or conservatorship you will have two attorneys, a private investigator, a doctor, multiple hearings with a judge and ongoing supervision by a judge. We can avoid all of that if we have the powers of attorney in place."

If you have established a trust, your beneficiaries will have asset protection from creditors, divorce, bankruptcy, or lawsuits, etc.

Even if you already have a revocable trust and you have moved to Arizona from another state, it's important to update the trust so that it complies with Arizona laws and regulations, because different states have different laws governing certain powers.

These are just a couple of things his team helps with. Once a trust is established, Jon meets with clients at least every three years and encourages them to bring along the executor/executrix to meet with him, too, so that everyone is comfortable with the arrangements that have been approved by the clients.

Philanthropy is an area where you can really save taxes in estate planning. "My goal is to help people avoid unnecessary taxes, accomplish their goals, and have peace of mind about the future," Jon says.

Questions? Contact Carla Williams, President of KSB, ksb@keepsedonabeautiful.org





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- Honorable mention at KSB Award Ceremony
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- Dinner for two w/ President & Executive Vice President
- Verbal honorable mention at 9 Speaker Series Events
- 2-hour, private geology tour or narrated tour of the area with respect to the KSB mission



Ponderosa Pine \$25K

- Dinner for two with President & Executive Vice President
- 2-hour, private geology tour or narrated tour of the area with respect to the KSB mission
- Name and donation amount on plaque displayed at Pushmataha Center
- Verbal honorable mention at 9 Speaker Series Events
- 1-hour stargazing with local astronomer

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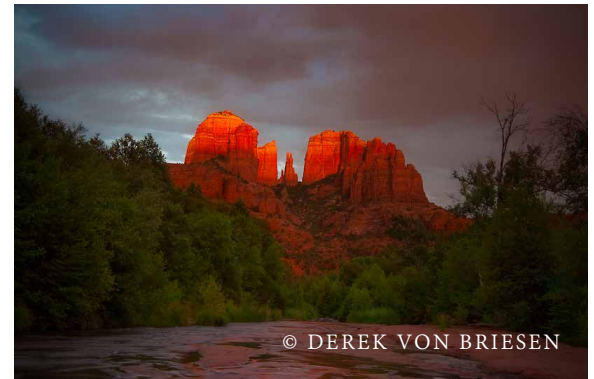
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