

## **Press Release**

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### **Close Encounters of The Reptilian Kind at Keep Sedona Beautiful**

On Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> Keep Sedona Beautiful presents “Close Encounters of the Reptilian Kind” at their monthly speaker series. What was that sound rustling in the leaves? Oh, it’s a lizard. Do you know what kind it is? What about that snake lying in the middle of the trail ahead? Is it venomous? Is it sleeping? Does it want to bite me? These are some of the questions that will be explored during this scintillating evening with renowned reptile aficionado Dennis Jex

Jex started picking up snakes before starting school. His fascination grew into a hobby, which further grew into a desire to educate people about the beneficial side of reptiles. A retired firefighter from Colorado, he was a member of the Colorado Herpetology Society; currently he belongs to the Tucson Herpetology Society in Arizona. He moved to Arizona in 2000 and began traveling statewide to present programs for kids to adults primarily about snakes. He volunteers for different state and federal agencies when the opportunity avails for research projects throughout the State of Arizona. Last year he assisted research projects for studying Rattlesnakes and Gila Monsters through the use of radio telemetry implants.

The presentation will highlight a countdown of 10 common lizards and 10 common snakes found in the Sedona area. It will also cover information about snakebite. There will also be a live, non-venomous snake display. The public will be invited to touch or hold a snake for a close encounter of the fun and educational kind at the end of the presentation.

The evening, which is open to the public and free of charge, begins at 5:30pm with a wine and cheese welcome reception. At 5:45 the program will begin, Jex will answer questions at the end of the evening which concludes at 7pm. The speaker series takes place at the KSB headquarters, the historic Pushmataha Center, 360 Brewer Rd. in Sedona.

Keep Sedona Beautiful is a nonprofit organization dedicated to “Preserving the Wonder” of Sedona for future generations. For more information visit Keep Sedona Beautiful's website [www.keepsedonabeautiful.org](http://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org)  
<http://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org/> or call 282-4938.