



Arizona Trail News

News and Information from the Arizona Trail Association

Autumn 2017 | Volume 25, No. 3

Sky Island Roasters Creates Coffee Inspired by the Arizona Trail

by Matthew J. Nelson

Nothing goes better with an Arizona sunrise than a strong cup of coffee. Especially after spending a night camping under the stars, warming your hands around a mug of hot java while inhaling its rich aroma as the birds sing the day to life is absolutely precious. This early morning ritual, and the way coffee provides confidence for many outdoor adventures, was our motivation behind developing the AZ Trail Blend.

Roasted in small batches by the coffee bean artisans at Sky Island Roasters, AZ Trail Blend is bold, adventurous and invigorating. It celebrates the Arizona Trail, and 5% of proceeds directly benefits the Arizona Trail Association (ATA). We use all proceeds from the sale of AZ Trail Blend to support our Trail Operations program so we can continually maintain and improve the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Each batch of AZ Trail Blend is artfully roasted by Cathy Haldiman, Roast Master, on American Avenue in the town of Oracle. The "blend" is a proprietary combination of coffee beans intended to capture the wild essence of the Arizona Trail, and provide trail users with the fuel they need to hike, run, pedal or ride for many miles across rugged terrain. It's a classic French Roast that's bold and dark with a smooth finish.

In addition to AZ Trail Blend, Sky Island Roasters offers 19 other varieties and three decaf options. Custom roasting is available, so if your coffee palate is so refined that you require an Ethiopian Yirgacheffe roasted a few degrees hotter than normal for an additional four seconds, Sky Island Roasters can accommodate.

Similar to the partnerships developed with That Brewery (Arizona Trail Ale) and Huppy Bar (AZT Wild Mesquite Bar), this unique product has myriad benefits for the ATA, trail users, gateway communities, and coffee lovers worldwide. It's our vision that trail supporters will enjoy AZ Trail Blend in their homes, buy some for friends, and be able to find it on menus within cafes and restaurants in gateway communities throughout Arizona.

Currently, AZ Trail Blend is available at the Oracle Patio Café and Arizona Zipline Adventures in the town of Oracle. You can order whole beans or ground coffee direct from the source by visiting them online at skyislandroasters.com (click on Premium Coffee) or by calling (520) 896-2048 or emailing siroasters@gmail.com. They offer coffee subscription services so your favorite coffee is roasted fresh and shipped directly to your home or office biweekly or monthly.

Imagine how good your next cup of coffee will taste knowing it supports the Arizona Trail and a local roaster in an Arizona Trail Gateway Community.



Holiday Gift Packs

Just in time for the holidays, we are proud to offer a limited supply of Arizona Trail Gift Packs. Each box contains a handmade Arizona Trail commemorative mug, 2 oz. of AZ Trail Blend Coffee, AZT bandana, AZT Wild Mesquite Huppy Bar, a map of the trail, and a copy of Memorizing Shadows, a book of poetry and artwork inspired by the AZT. Topo map gift wrapping and a personalized card is available if you're giving this as a gift. Order yours online (aztrail.org/store/) for \$50 each while supplies last.



Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

If you like exciting and eventful, then please plan to attend the Arizona Trail Association's Annual Members Meeting on February 3, 2018 at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. 2017 has been a year the Board of Directors, Staff, Members, Volunteers and Trail Users all need to celebrate. In addition to being another record year of growth, there have also been super gates installed, bridges built, reroutes accomplished, new signs installed, sign standards developed, existing trails improved, new navigation tools introduced, and an increasing awareness of our wonderful National Scenic Trail all around the world.

The Annual Meeting will also be a time to thank all the hard working volunteers for their efforts in driving this organization. I can't wait to hear how Wendy Lotze convinced so many volunteers to use their vacation time to fly across the country to help us build trail, or how Shawn Redfield and friends turned the Highline Trail from a beast to a real beauty. If we all acknowledge the next generation holds the key to the future success of the Arizona Trail then we need to hear how Sabrina and Treven led a record number of youth on the trail this year through the Seeds of Stewardship program. So much to celebrate in so little time.

As this year is coming to a close it is also time for my second year term as Board President to end. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this organization as President and I look forward to serving on the Board and on the trail in the future. I'm pleased to report we have three talented new Board Members chosen this year to replace three departing members. Phyllis Ralley and Kent Taylor both have extensive trail experience and have previously served on the ATA Board. Our newest Board Member, David Benson, brings his love of the trail and his professional business leadership skills to help make this Board even more dynamic. Thanks are in order for the work done by our departing Board Members – Lirain Urreiztietia, Todd Sadow, and especially Larry Snead. Most of you know all the years of blood, sweat and cheers Larry has put into the Arizona Trail. My personal thanks to Larry for always being there with his calm demeanor, willingness to offer help and advice, and his constant love and commitment to the Arizona Trail.

Finally, two programs we're excited to tell you more about at the Annual Meeting are the newly reborn ATA Advisory Council, which is being led by Board Member Ambika Balasubramanian, and an effort by Board Member Phyllis Ralley and former Board Member Tom Coulson to accumulate and catalog stories of the early pioneers of the Arizona Trail. You will hear more about these two efforts later, but for now please forward any historic information you might have on an Arizona Trail pioneer to Phyllis (pralley@msn.com). We will find a way to make these stories available to everyone.

So there it is. We've had a wonderful year and look forward to celebrating with all of you. If you like exciting and eventful then there will be much more to see than cactus growing at the Desert Botanical Garden on February 3 next year.

See you there!

Rob Mason
President, Arizona Trail Association
Board of Directors



Jeff Hemperley ("El Freako") shows off his leg tattoo, celebrating his successful AZT crossing on a singlespeed mountain bike in a record time of 8 days, 11 hours and 51 minutes.

Damion Alexander Photo

Arizona Trail Association

Our Mission

To protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

Our Vision

A continuous, non-motorized trail traversing 800 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, forests, canyons, communities and people.

Board of Directors

Rob Mason, President
Fred Gaudet, Vice President of Trail Operations
Jan Hancock, Secretary
C.W. Payne, Treasurer

Board Members

Steve Anderson
Ambika Balasubramanian
David Benson
Susan Lagerman
Ben Murphy
Phyllis Ralley
Denis Ryan
Bernie Stalman
Kent Taylor
Jeff Whitney

Honorary Advisory Council

Senator John McCain
Congressman Ruben Gallego
Congressman Paul Gosar
Congressman Raúl Grijalva
Congresswoman Martha McSally
Congressman David Schweikert
Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema

Staff & Support

Matthew Nelson, Executive Director
Shawn Redfield, Trail Director
Zachary MacDonald, Assistant Trail Director
Wendy Lotze, Volunteer Coordinator
Debbie Thorman, Membership & Administration
Anna Perreira, Development Director
Tamara McDonald, Executive Assistant
Sabrina Carlson, Youth Outreach & Education Coordinator (Northern Arizona)
Treven Hooker, Youth Outreach & Education Coordinator (Southern Arizona)
Shannon Villegas, Graphic Design & Marketing Director
David Babcock, Web Master
Aaron Seifert, GIS Director

Arizona Trail Association

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Natural Restorations Benefits People and Places Throughout Arizona

by Nicole Corey



Natural Restorations volunteers pitch in to help clean up the Salt River. Tom Story Photography



Natural Restorations is an Arizona-based nonprofit organization focused on removing trash, graffiti, and anything foreign to the environment from outdoor recreation and wilderness areas throughout the state. We help prevent natural areas from being closed to the public through restoration and conservation projects, along with public education. Natural Restorations hosts volunteer cleanup events across the state to provide hands-on service learning opportunities for community members, including youth volunteers, and we also manage and support a Dedicated Restoration Team with contracted military veterans who conduct restorations beyond the reach of most volunteers.

We believe when children and adults participate in stewardship efforts, they develop a better connection to natural areas and a deeper understanding of what it takes to preserve them. By creating a more personal relationship with these areas through physical action people are more likely to leave a minimal footprint in the future and help guide others to do the same, keeping natural areas open and available for future generations.

Accomplishments

- Hosted five cleanups on and near the AZT over the last 32 months, removing

- 21.96 tons of trash from those areas
- 198 tons of trash removed from outdoor recreation and wilderness areas since March 2015
- Hosted 16 official cleanup events across the state for community members, including volunteers under the age of 18, and created hands-on service learning opportunities for more than 1,350 volunteers
- Launched first Dedicated Restoration Team in 2017 and began working on an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area Restoration Project funded through a grant from the OHV Fund, administered by Arizona State Parks & Trails
- Completed nine 40-hour week Cleanup Projects with our Dedicated Restoration Team in 2017 and removed 65 tons of trash from OHV recreation areas. We will complete two additional projects with our team before the end of the year.
- Provided contract work to military veterans on our Dedicated Restoration Team
- 128 tons of trash removed in 2017, along with several panels of graffiti removed from rock faces in outdoor recreation areas

Natural Restorations recently received our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS. We're excited to grow the organization and add new youth education components to our existing program. We would like to thank the

Arizona Trail Association for their support and fiscal sponsorship, we would not have accomplished as much as we did in the first 32 months without them. Special thanks to the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) Board and Matthew Nelson, Executive Director, for believing in our vision.

Join us at an Upcoming Event

- Nov 24: 1st Annual Green Friday Cleanup along the Lower Salt River
- Jan 20: Cleanup Event from Gold Canyon to Superior with Footprints Matter to Us
- Feb 2: Santa Cruz River Cleanup in Tucson
- Feb 17: Lower Salt River Land & Water Cleanup Event
- April 2: Phon D Sutton Recreation Area Cleanup along the Salt River

Visit naturalrestorations.org for more information and to register for these events.

If you know of any outdoor recreation or wilderness areas in Arizona that suffer from scattered trash, illegal dumping, or graffiti on rock faces, please email us at contact@naturalrestorations.org with more information.



Before...



After!



Volunteers from Salt River Project (SRP) help clean up trash from the Coconino National Forest near the Arizona Trail.



Volunteer Vacation Breaks Ground on Happy Jack Singletrack

by Wendy Lotze

Jack Latham drove his truck and camper trailer from Shreveport, Louisiana to Flagstaff, Arizona just to spend four days helping the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) build 1.5 miles of new singletrack near Happy Jack. It's Jack's third Volunteer Vacation with the ATA, and as he pulled away to drive back to the south he said he hopes he can come out and help us again next year.

Did I mention that Jack celebrated his 84th birthday this year?

Jack was just one of 14 volunteers who traveled from all over the United States to volunteer as a part of the American Hiking Society and ATA's Volunteer Vacation. The AHS program matches trail volunteers with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the United States and beyond. Many of these volunteers had never visited Arizona before, and most of them had not even heard of the Arizona National Scenic Trail before registering for the event. What starts as just a great way to get some volunteers involved in trail building turns into a fantastic outreach program. Now these hikers will go home and brag about the amazing trail they constructed through the scenic ponderosa pine forest of northern Arizona, and maybe a few new seeds of AZT fever will grow.

The trail construction was the first part of the new Happy Jack Singletrack Project on the Coconino National Forest. Ultimately, this project will result in almost 18 miles of new trail construction to get the AZT off of the monotonous motorized forest roads of the Happy Jack Passage. The Volunteer Vacation crew created 1.4 miles of new trail, nearly completing the northernmost reroute of the project. They hacked through oak thickets, dug out pine stumps, and chopped through tedious grass flats to open up the corridor – even building some impressive stone retaining structures to finish the final climbs.



What better way to improve the Arizona National Scenic Trail than building singletrack to replace a monotonous road walk through the Coconino National Forest? Your help will be needed over the next year to help us complete this ambitious 18-mile trail construction project. *ATA Photo*

Special thanks to ATA volunteers who participated as crew leaders and camp hosts: Roger Smith, John Swain and the Higbee clan – Terry, Mike and Craig.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved in the Happy Jack Singletrack Project by watching the Event Calendar or

by completing the volunteer contact form online. We need your help to finish the biggest trail construction project since the AZT was officially completed in 2011! No time to help? Then please consider making a donation online. With your support, the AZT gets better all the time.



Volunteers from American Hiking Society and the Arizona Trail Association join forces to break ground on the Happy Jack Singletrack Project. *Ryan Nelson Photo*

Volunteer Spotlight Sandy Fortner – Hiker, Volunteer and Trail Angel

by Wendy Lotze

When I asked Sandy Fortner how she got started volunteering for the Arizona Trail Association, her answer was pretty simple,

“You see, this girl I used to hike with invited me...”

I laugh because the girl she’s referring to is me. Sandy and I were trail buddies and members of the Arizona Backpacking Club long before I started working for the ATA. She was on the first monitoring trip I did as steward of Passage 17a, as well as every work event we’ve done there since. Sandy may have caught the trail volunteer bug with me, but she started her own very unique journey on the AZT – one that she can’t quite see the end of yet.

Sandy set a goal of section-hiking the whole trail. She realized it was going to be a more complicated undertaking in many ways than hiking the thing at once. “I drove about 2,400 miles in order to hike that 800,” she says. “That’s the biggest disadvantage of section-hiking.”

Rather than being finished in just a couple of months, it took Sandy almost three years to complete the trek. But in December 2016, “Goldilocks” (her trail name) crossed the finish line in the Superstition Wilderness. There were some benefits to her method, however. She got to enjoy the trail during a wide variety of seasons and had time to interact with many different kinds of trail users. She learned that a part of what she really loves about the trail are the people she meets along the way and the stories they share about what brought them to the trail.

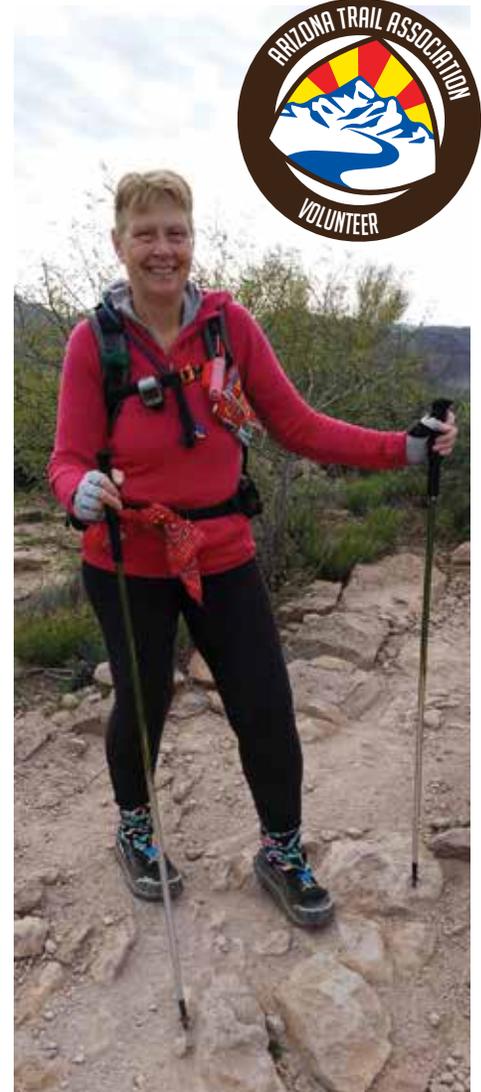
It’s this love of shared trail stories that makes Sandy such a fantastic ambassador for the AZT. Whether she’s hosting a thru-hiker in her home or promoting the trail at an outreach event, Sandy is always eager to connect with her fellow trail enthusiasts. “It’s interesting to get the story of each individual’s hike – they’re all different” she says.

Her new big goal, now that she’s finished hiking the trail, is to get a group of volunteers and Gateway Community members together to start a kickoff event for the spring of 2018. Modeled after the PCT’s kickoff event but with a decidedly Arizona twist, Sandy hopes it will help those starting out on the trail be better prepared for the challenges of completing the AZT while also promoting the on-trail community.

When she’s not hiking or promoting the AZT, Sandy still teaches 8th grade science. Though she dreams of retiring and spending more time hiking and traveling, bringing kids to a better understanding of science is a part of who she’s always been. She spends summers in South Pass City, Wyoming as a seasonal curator, where she gets to share history and help preserve it through hard work.

While Sandy is a true force of nature with a pair of loppers or a pick, she’s found her own special way to give back to the Arizona Trail Association that not only utilizes her skills as a teacher, but also speaks to her passion for sharing stories and information. Outreach volunteers like Sandy are a critical part of the mission of the ATA, and the trail would just be a line in the dirt without their dedication and enthusiasm. Thanks, Sandy! And thanks to everyone who volunteers to promote the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

For information on helping with outreach opportunities or with Sandy’s spring launch event, contact volunteer@aztrail.org.



Goldilocks enjoys volunteering for the ATA almost as much as she enjoys time on the trail. Lova Njuguna Photo

WANTED: Unreported volunteer hours

Do you have a collection of unreported volunteer hours sitting in your tool box? Maybe a few that have collected at the bottom of your daypack or that cling to your bike tires? Hours from trail monitoring, communicating with the ATA, or sharpening tools?

The ATA can put those hours to good use! By turning those unreported hours into in-kind donations, reports to land management agencies and quantifiable results, we can make your volunteer hours work for the ATA all over again.

Help us turn unreported hours into value by emailing a quick summary to wendy@aztrail.org or entering them into the database at aztrail.org/volunteers/hours.html

Your time has more value than you know!



Trail Improvements to



Top: ACE crew members stripping bark off the alder tree with draw knives in preparation for wooden bridge construction. *Jessica Plance Photo*

Bottom: A timber scribe was used to measure the saddle notch for each contact point with the sills. *Katherine Dickey Photo*



ACE crew members ensure that the logs are level before driving spikes and securing them into position. *Katherine Dickey Photo*

Anyone who has ever participated in trail construction or maintenance knows it's a labor of love, and the feeling of helping to create a path that countless others will enjoy is rewarding beyond words.

Each year, Arizona Trail Association (ATA) volunteers give tens of thousands of hours to maintaining and enhancing the 800-mile path from Mexico to Utah. Most of that time is spent removing downed trees, hacking back overgrowth, and repairing damage from seasonal erosion. But it's not uncommon for a trail steward to spend a weekend improving a segment of trail to return a month later and barely notice their efforts. Shrubs grow back with a vengeance and intense storms can destroy some of most sustainably designed trail. This kind of perpetual upkeep is absolutely necessary and is what makes the Arizona Trail so great.

Every once in a while an opportunity presents itself to make significant improvements to the AZT that will stand the test of time. The Washington Park-East Verde River Arizona Trail Enhancement Project is one of those. In 2014, the ATA's Trail Director (a full-time volunteer) identified some necessary improvements along the Highline Passage of the AZT, where the trail leaves the Highline National Recreation Trail and heads north to climb up the Mogollon Rim. Here, the AZT follows a utility corridor straight uphill for 2.4 miles. The road walk underneath powerlines and interactions with utility crews is a harsh contrast to the Arizona Trail experience along the Highline Trail as well as the Blue Ridge Passage to the north. Studying maps of the area revealed the Colonel Devin Trail, a historic trail to the east of the powerline road that could potentially be rehabilitated.

While the old Colonel Devin Trail provided an incredible opportunity to send the AZT through an idyllic forest, a few major environmental hurdles had to be overcome, including the East Verde River and Pieper Hatchery Spring. The East Verde is one of the most precious waterways in this part of

Arizona, and protecting the watershed is a primary concern. The solution presented itself rather easily: build bridges over the river.

That's easier said than done, especially considering the remote nature of the location; the need to accommodate all trail users; and building a structure that would withstand 100-year storms that seem to happen with greater frequency than 100 years these days. Then there's the issue of how to pay for the engineering, fabrication, delivery and installation of bridges in the middle of the forest.

Through perseverance, ingenuity, and many partners working together to find solutions, we are proud to announce that four bridges were recently installed along the Arizona Trail in this area. This includes two steel bridges measuring 44 feet in length, and two 12-ft. wooden footbridges. These bridges provide safe passage for all trail users and protect the sensitive riparian species that rely on these mountain streams for survival. Outside Grand Canyon National Park, these are the most impressive trail bridges along the entire length of the AZT.

Stand the Test of Time

by Matthew J. Nelson



The recently-installed steel bridge over the headwaters of the East Verde River.
Rob Bauer Photo

The steel bridges were built by Rob Bauer, the same master metalsmith who fabricates the AZT Super Gates and steel trail signs. The bridges were created in Catalina, Arizona, and transported to Payson on a semi-truck. From there, Hook Crane Service of Tucson, a group of highly-skilled heavy equipment operators who saw the project as a particular challenge, manipulated the bridges into position using a specially rigged truck and a rough terrain crane. The wooden bridges were handcrafted by conservation corps members from American Conservation Experience, and constructed from a massive alder tree that fell nearby.

The bridges are truly incredible, but where they take you is the real gem. In less than one mile, the rehabilitated Colonel Devin Trail immerses AZT travelers in an old-growth forest with tiny waterfalls, wildflowers, abundant wildlife and sensory experiences unlike any other. It won't be long before this segment becomes a premier day hiking destination.

Special thanks to everyone who has supported this project thus far, including the volunteers, trail stewards, land managers, Boy

Scout Troops, and enthusiastic individuals who make dreams like this become reality. The project is funded in part by ATA members and donors, Salt River Project (SRP), and a grant from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by Arizona State Parks. RTP is a federal assistance program of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The ATA still needs \$25,000 to fully fund this project. Please consider making a donation before the end of the year.

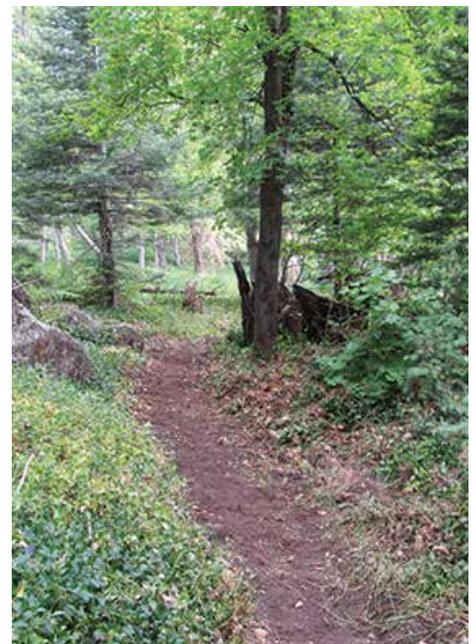
As winter descends on Mogollon Rim country, the project will quiet down until Spring of 2018 when we plan to finish up with trailhead upgrades, improving trail conditions west of Washington Park, and installation of interpretive signs encouraging visitors to learn more about this special place while protecting its sensitive resources. ATA members will be invited to a completion ceremony next year to help us commemorate the Washington Park-East Verde River Arizona Trail Enhancement Project.



Top: Volunteers clear the path to rehabilitate the historic Colonel Devin Trail. *ATA Photo*



Bottom: A steel and wood bridge protects Pieper Hatchery Spring and provides a sustainable path that will stand the test of time. *Rob Bauer Photo*



Instead of walking along a utility corridor, the AZT now follows an idyllic path through old growth forest. *Shawn Redfield Photo*

Leaving a Legacy

by Anna Perreira

A bequest to the ATA provides an opportunity to make the Arizona Trail a part of your own legacy, and to positively impact the lives of all those who will hike, run, pedal and ride on the trail well into the future.

The Arizona Trail itself is a legacy project, conceived over 30 years ago. The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) is committed to ensuring the trail is here for future generations, and one of the most significant ways to support our mission is through planned giving.

When planning your estate giving, here are some things to consider:

Why choose to bequeath to the ATA

Including the ATA in your planned giving allows you the ability retain control of your assets and the option to amend your planned contribution during your lifetime. Any bequest to the ATA is exempt from federal estate taxes. Just as the Arizona Trail has made a positive impact on your life, your

gift will ensure the trail is maintained and protected so future generations can enjoy the same kinds of experiences for many years to come.

How to direct your gift

You have the ability to distribute your gift as you like. Unrestricted gifts are extremely helpful, as they leave the allocation of your gift to the discretion of ATA. Alternatively, you can restrict funds to a particular program or project that has a particular significance to you, whereby it is advised to contact us for guidance. You also have the opportunity to designate your gift as either expendable (over a relatively short period) or endowed. Endowments are usually larger gifts to be carried out in perpetuity. As you plan the apportionment of your estate, you may consider various contingencies. You have the ability to choose to bequeath a residuary (the amount remaining in your estate after accounting for expenses, claims, or other obligations).

Steps to get started

You can choose to make the ATA a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account by contacting your policyholder. Assets can also be gifted through a living will or trust in the form of cash, holdings, or property. A codicil to your existing will or an amendment to your trust may be sufficient ways to update existing documents. Alternatively, you can sign a new will or trust. It's always best to contact an attorney for proper guidance.

If you are including the ATA in your estate planning, please consider letting us know. This communication in no way prevents your ability to amend your decision in the future. It will, however, allow us to thank you and to understand the purpose of your gift.

For more information, please call Anna Perreira, Development Director, (520) 400-2102 or Matthew Nelson, Executive Director, (520) 404-7992 or visit aztrail.org/bequest



Ford Explorer Raffle Tickets Benefit the Arizona Trail



Grand Prize: 2017 Ford Explorer Platinum

2nd Prize:

Two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world

3rd Prize:

\$5,000 cash

Get your tickets today for a chance to win a 2017 Ford Explorer

Platinum. Tickets are available for \$25 each or 5 for \$100 and will only be on sale until December 7 online: aztrail.org/raffle/

The ATA receives 100% of profits from ticket sales and you could drive away this new car when the winner is chosen on December 14 in Tucson. You do not need to be present to win.

Since 2004, the Jim Click Automotive Team has initiated six raffles for charities in the Greater Tucson area by donating a new vehicle as the raffle prize. This year, Mr. Click is donating a 2017 Ford Explorer Platinum, and is adding two other prizes to encourage more ticket sales so individuals can support the nonprofit organizations they love most.

Buy your tickets online at aztrail.org/raffle/ and we'll mail them to you. Please help share the opportunity with friends and colleagues, too.



Adventure Seat
Simple Outdoor Solutions
simpleoutdoorstore.com
by Shannon Villegas



Anyone reading this appreciates time spent outdoors. The benefits of time in the backcountry far outweigh the few discomforts that come with it, but who wouldn't mind being a little more comfortable?

The Adventure Seat by Simple Outdoor Solutions is a durable, trail-side sitting pad that will relieve any complaints from your backside. Whether you're venturing to the bleachers for the local sports game or into the wilderness for days, this little guy will literally take the edge off of hard seating surfaces. It is extremely light and durable, and can be slid into your daypack, backpack or bikepacking kit. Each Adventure Seat is handmade in Flagstaff, and all products have been thoroughly tested in the Grand Canyon, Sonoran Desert, and everywhere in between.

The outer shell is made from water resistant, 100% CORDURA® nylon, known for long-lasting durability and resistance to tears and scuffs. Inside, there is a half-inch, flexible, polyethylene closed cell foam pad that won't rot, mold, or mildew. Since it's not inflatable you'll never need to worry about a puncture.

All of that, backed by a lifetime warranty.

- 4 Sizes and 5 colors are available
- Youth 7 x 11 inches, 2.3 ounces
 - Small 9 x 12 inches, 3.10 ounces
 - Medium 10 x 14 inches, 3.75 ounces
 - Large 11 x 16 inches, 4.9 ounces

Visit simpleoutdoorstore.com to order your Adventure Seat, or look for them at your favorite outdoor retail location.

Squirrel's Nut Butter
squirrelsnutbutter.com
by Matthew J. Nelson



Sand in your shoes causing blisters between your toes? Did your cotton underwear hold moisture and turn your backside raw? Is your backpack rubbing in just the wrong spot on your lower back?

Sounds like a job for Squirrel's Nut Butter!

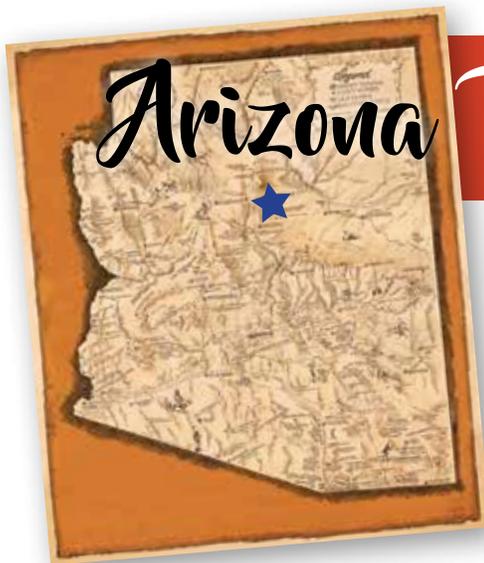
Chafing is a common discomfort that trail users often suffer from. Whether you're hiking, running, mountain biking, or horseback riding, chances are you're going to get rubbed raw in one place or another. Dealing with it immediately on-the-trail means you can continue your adventure and not pay for it the following day. This is especially important for thru-hikers or anyone out on extended adventures. The answer to most chafing issues is simple – lube it.

The best product we've found thus far is Squirrel's Nut Butter (SNB). Made in Flagstaff by a group of trail enthusiasts, SNB is an all-natural, anti-chafe and restorative salve made from coconut oil, cocoa butter, beeswax, and Vitamin E oil. Simple, natural, perfect.

SNB is highly effective when applied before hitting the trail, then reapplying as necessary. It comes in 0.5-oz. and 2.7-oz. applicator sticks, 0.5-oz. and 2-oz. plastic tubs (perfect for hot weather), and 2-oz. tin (better for cold weather). Due to the restorative qualities of the ingredients, it can be applied after you clean up at the end of the day, or before you go to bed at night. That way all of your parts are healed and fresh for the day ahead.

Your lips, nose, ears, cheeks, hands, toes and nether regions will all be happier with Squirrel's Nut Butter. You can order direct from SNB online (squirrelsnutbutter.com) or find the goods at a variety of retail locations throughout Arizona.

Essential Gear is a new column, featuring products ideal for the Arizona Trail. All products are tested in the field by ATA staff, volunteers, stewards, friends, and others who spend a lot of time on the trail. We write our honest opinions about gear that will stand up to the rigors of Arizona's terrain and climate. Other product reviews can be found at aztrail.org/gear



Trail History

Passage 31 – Walnut Canyon

by Preston Sands

The Walnut Canyon passage of the Arizona Trail begins by heading west across a pleasant mountain meadow next to Marshall Lake, on Anderson Mesa.

It was on this mesa that the Flagstaff Lumber Company railroad constructed a steep, rollercoaster-like section of track known as an “incline,” in 1917. This incline used a steam-powered winch to pull empty railroad cars up the side of the mesa, and lower full ones back down, which were heavily laden with freshly cut logs for the company’s Flagstaff sawmill.

A steam locomotive stationed on top of Anderson Mesa transported the loaded log cars from the forest to the top of the incline. This unusual logging railroad had been in operation for less than a year when its steam locomotive unexpectedly went over the edge of Anderson Mesa, onto the incline, and quickly lost control, in effect becoming a “runaway train.” The locomotive impacted at the bottom of the incline and was destroyed, but the crewmembers had jumped from the locomotive’s cab and were not injured. The Flagstaff Lumber Company quickly abandoned its Anderson Mesa incline railroad after this incident.

A few miles into this passage, the trail descends to the bed of Walnut Creek, below pale, cross-bedded walls of Coconino Sandstone. It is here that the Arizona Trail’s Passage 33 (Flagstaff Urban Route) branches off to the west, and Walnut Creek enters the narrow confines of Walnut Canyon. From this trail junction, the Arizona Trail climbs to the north rim of Walnut Canyon, where a short spur hike out

to Fisher Point gives a fine view of the sinuous chasm of Walnut Canyon, once home to the Sinagua people.

The Sinagua moved into central Arizona around the year 600, inhabiting the Verde Valley, Flagstaff and Mogollon Rim region. Sinagua, Spanish for “without water,” refers to some of their dwelling sites being in arid locations. The Sinagua farmed the fertile volcanic soils of the Flagstaff region, hunted plentiful wildlife, and collected wild, edible plants. Archaeological evidence in the form of turquoise, seashells and macaw feathers suggest that the Sinagua traded with a number of other cultures of the Southwest, with their trade network reaching as far south as Mexico. Their traditional pit house dwellings gave way to a building revolution during the 1100’s and 1200’s. During this time the Sinagua constructed great pueblos and cliff dwellings including Montezuma Castle in the Verde Valley, Elden Pueblo and Wupatki in the Flagstaff area, and a cliff dwelling complex in Walnut Canyon.

As the trail works its way east from Fisher Point, it occasionally passes near the rim of Walnut Canyon, where you can gaze into its beautiful, forested passageways. Clustered around a peninsula of layered cliffs in Walnut Canyon are a large number of Sinagua cliff dwellings, dating to the 12th and 13th centuries. Here, tucked beneath ledges of pale Kaibab Limestone, the Sinagua constructed numerous single-level apartment-like dwellings within the canyon’s cliff walls. On the canyon rims above, the Sinagua farmed and constructed pithouses. Some early American visitors to the canyon stole artifacts from the dwellings and vandalized the sites, which ultimately led to the creation of Walnut Canyon National Monument in 1915 by President Woodrow Wilson. Walnut Canyon National Monument lies less than a mile south of the Arizona Trail, and is a side trip not to be missed.

Winding through rolling forest country north of Walnut Canyon, the Arizona Trail crosses the road to Walnut Canyon National Monument, where it bends north and enters piñon-juniper woodland. The high peaks of

the San Francisco Volcanic Field are in view as this segment comes to an end at Interstate 40, along one of Arizona’s most important historic transportation corridors.

After Lieutenant Edward Beale first established this route in 1857, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad laid tracks through this corridor in 1881, followed by the National Old Trails Road in the 1910’s. One of America’s first national highways, U.S. Highway 66, or “Route 66” as it was better known, made use of the National Old Trails Road in the late 1920’s. Route 66 traveled over 2,400 miles from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, and served as the main travel artery across northern Arizona until it was replaced by Interstate 40 decades later.

Preston Sands is a local historian who currently works for Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC). He has written chapters on Arizona history for each of the Arizona Trail’s 43 passages, which will be published in an upcoming version of the Arizona Trail App (Guthook Hikes) and in the second edition of Your Complete Guide to the Arizona National Scenic Trail (Wilderness Press).

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Tips for Trail Stewards: Chainsaw Kit for the Field

by Mark Loseth

Most Arizona Trail stewards spend time cutting deadfall (downed trees) and overhanging limbs with hand saws, bow saws, and occasionally a two-person crosscut saw. Crosscut saws require certification from the US Forest Service, and the same goes for chainsaws. Now that the US Forest Service has a national standard for sawyer certification, the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) will be offering opportunities in 2018 for trail stewards to get certified on both crosscut and chainsaws.

In designated wilderness areas, crosscuts are the best tool for the job. Outside wilderness areas, deciding whether to use a crosscut or a chainsaw can be determined through a number of factors. You will learn more about that during the sawyer certification classes, and in a future edition of the *Arizona Trail News*. The goal of this article is to help you pack a comprehensive kit for your sawyering activities using a chainsaw after you are certified.

As a sawyer doing work on the Arizona Trail, there are a wide variety of things you will need to think about throughout the day. Staying safe, working around trail users, the myriad of potential binds a downed tree may have, jack straws, spring poles, and yellow jackets, to name a few. Being prepared is the one thing you can do to maximize your efficiency. A small tool kit in your pack is invaluable to ensure you can make basic field fixes, keep your chain sharp (a sharp chain is a safe chain), and troubleshoot any potential issues you are experiencing.

A common chainsaw tool kit for the trail includes:

1. **Small canvas pouch** for the kit.
2. **File sharpening kit.** Make sure you know your chain pitch to have the correct file size.
3. **Extra bar nuts.** Losing one in the field can end your day, and no matter how long you look, you may not ever find it!
4. **Extra chain.** Desert trees can dull a chain quickly! A shop rag wrapped over the chain keeps it protected, and your fingers, too.
5. **Srench** for basic adjustments, removing bar nuts, field cleaning, and accessing the guts of your saw.
6. **5.5 inch wedge.** Need to open your kerf to make things easier? Did your kerf just bind your bar in that big downed ponderosa? This will help.

These basic items will help you take care of a variety of things in the field, from making sure you can replace a dull chain quickly or get you saw back from a bind without having to pack in a large tool kit. Speaking of packing your equipment onto the trail, a few other items essential to make sure you are organized and ready include:

1. **Personal Protective Equipment** (hard hat, eye protection, leather gloves, ear plugs and chaps) – all absolutely required!
2. **2.5 pound axe** for pounding that wedge, removing bark and tree limbs.
3. **Fuel bottles** 20 oz. MSR fuel bottles designed for backpacking stoves work great. Two bottles for fuel mix and 1 bottle for bar oil will get you through even a heavy log out day. Make sure you label them clearly.
4. **Trauma kit.** Any accident involving a chainsaw is serious and will require immediate medical attention, please seek advice from your saw instructor on appropriate medical equipment to have on-hand.

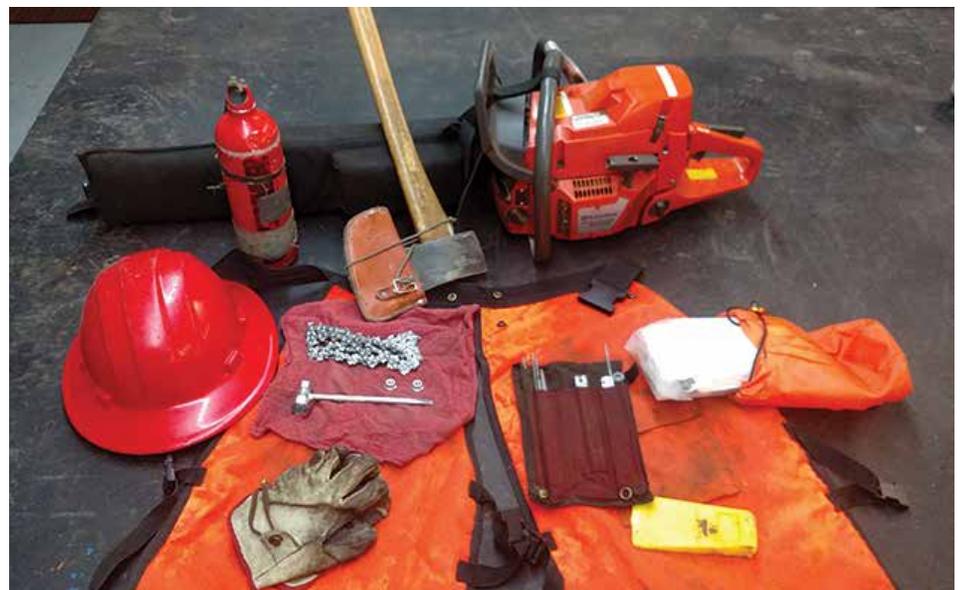
Does this seem like a lot of stuff to carry? It is.

The final necessity is a partner, known as a swamper, who can help you remove rounds and branches from the trail corridor and maybe as importantly, help you carry some gear. Sawing can be a dangerous activity on the trail, so you should view your swamper as an important element to staying safe and having fun doing it.

Now that you have everything you need on the trail, it's time to get cutting!

Mark Loseth is the National Trails Coordinator for American Conservation Experience (ACE). Tips for Trail Stewards is a regular column intended to further your understanding and skills in trail maintenance. The ideas have been developed, tested and proven by trail professionals on the Arizona Trail. To learn more about the art and science of trail stewardship, sign up for one of the Trail Skills Institute classes offered by ACE throughout the year by visiting aztrail.org/volunteers/training.html

If you're interested in attending a sawyer certification class in 2018, please contact Wendy Lotze, Volunteer Coordinator, at wendy@aztrail.org.





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