Save the Date! February 4, 2006 ATA Annual Meeting

Arizona Trail NEWS

News and Information on the State's border-to-border Arizona Trail project *Vol. 11, No. 3 – Fall 2005*

ATA Receives 2005 NASPD President's Award

The Arizona Trail Association was surprised and honored to receive the prestigious 2005 President's Award from the National Association of State Parks Directors (NASPD) at their conference held in Blaine, Washington on September 8, 2005.

ATA was presented this award after being selected from a large list of national organizations nominated for their long-term dedication and contributions toward the preservation, conservation and interpretation of America's magnificent state park system.

ATA was recognized for our organization's outstanding partnership with Arizona State Parks and our volunteers' efforts around our state. The Arizona Trail was featured as the longest trail in the Arizona State Parks trails system. Jan Hancock, ATA past president, and Larry Snead, ATA executive director, were invited to attend the Awards Banquet ceremonies on behalf of ATA, and they made a brief visual presentation to the 280 conference attendees from throughout the nation to highlight some of the work of our 2,500 members and volunteers and the scenic beauty of the Arizona Trail.

Photo: Jay Ream, right, Assistant Director of Arizona State Parks, presented the NASPD President's Award to the Arizona Trail Association. Jan Hancock, left, accepted the award on behalf of all of ATA's members and volunteers.

National Public Lands Day Celebrations

ATA was actively participating in many statewide events to celebrate the 2005 National Public Lands Day, held on Saturday, June 24, 2005.

Each year more than 90,000 volunteers nationwide gather together to participate in the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy.

The Arizona Trail Association and eleven other organizations collaborated to conduct a fun day of activities at Mormon Lake Village, south of Flagstaff, where participants picked up litter, took an Audubon bird walk, or joined in on great hikes, mountain bike and horseback rides in the afternoon. One of the event sponsors, Mormon Lake Lodge, hosted a bountiful outdoor hamburger fry with all the trimmings for lunch. Plant and wildlife naturalists and public lands representatives were also on hand to provide interpretive hikes and guided rides throughout the day.

REI hosted a large Arizona Trail National Public Lands Day service project work event that had more than 60 participants. The volunteers conducted trail brushing and maintenance repairs and installed trail signage on the Four Peaks segment of the Arizona Trail from Vineyard to Granite Springs. Camping was provided for volunteers the night before the project at the Cholla Bay Campground on

continued on page 6

Bob Baldwin, Arizona State Parks Grant Coordinator, graciously became a BBQ burger chef to help serve the crowd of National Public Lands Day participants on September 24, 2005. Mormon Lake Lodge donated the food for the lunch to all event volunteers. On the receiving end of the burger with plate in hand is a hungry Brian Poturalski, Recreation Planner with the Peaks Ranger District, Coconino National Forest, who helped with the trail crews.

At The Helm

The Arizona Trail Our Vision...

a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing the state nearly 800 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities, and people.

The **Arizona Trail Association** coordinates the planning, development, management and promotion of the Arizona Trail for recreational and educational experiences for non-motorized trail users.

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sneadlarry@qwest.net

ATA welcomes articles and photos from trail users and volunteers. Please mail to ATA or e-mail: ***editor@aztrail.org***

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Message from the ATA President

Dale Shewalter & Cimarron

There is a change of season in the air in northern Arizona. When the monsoon shut off, our nights immediately cooled down. Much of the region is covered with green and yellow, with spots of lavender. It's a great time to be on the Trail.

Soon, the trail maintenance and construction season will begin in the lower elevation country. Please consider joining one or more trail work projects during the winter season. A growing list of scheduled trail work opportunities can be found on the web site.

Also, I hope you will mark February 4, 2006 on your calendar. Plans are underway for the ATA annual meeting in Phoenix. I hope to see you there and, as always, on the Arizona Trail.

ATA 2006 - 2010 Strategic Plan Finalized

For the past twelve months ATA's Board of Directors and a committee of hard-working volunteers have been developing our organization's new 5-Year Strategic Plan, which updates our existing 2001-2005 Strategic Plan.

The committee chairman and ATA Board member, Eric Hiser, who also served as the chairman of our 2001-2005 Strategic Plan, has guided our Strategic Planning Committee of 15 people. Having Eric's previous experience and overall knowledge of the structure of ATA was a large advantage in the updating process. We all owe a big measure of appreciation for this dedicated committee's work in helping us formulate the map that will chart our future for the next five years.

The future will be an exciting one for the Arizona Trail Association. As the new trail construction work will be drawing to completion over the next five years, ATA will be able to concentrate on many of its other missions, including trail enhancements such as added trailheads and interpretive signage, trail reroutes and maintenance, new collaborative partnerships, environmental education, membership development, and designation as a National Scenic Trail in Congress. The new 2006-2010 Strategic Plan will be highlighted at the upcoming 12th Annual Meeting being held on Saturday, February 4, 2006.

Matt Shannon

by Dave Hicks

"It's a great trail and not crowded" is Mathew Shannon's advice for people thinking about the Arizona Trail. Mathew began hiking the Arizona Trail in March 2002. He and 7 others hiked from Freeman Road in the Tortilla Mts passage to the Gila River. He was hooked and began a series of segment hikes on the AZT. In May 2005 Mathew, accompanied by his two sons Paul and John plus several friends, completed his hike of the entire AZT. The last segment was a 2-day backpack from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to the South Rim. Mathew completed his hike at the age of 72 years and 8 months. He is the most senior person to hike the entire Arizona Trail. Congratulations Mathew!

11/24/03 Antelope Peak in background photo by Dori Pederson

Editor's Apology - It is Mathew Shannon

In the Winter 2004 edition in the "Reports From the Field" section of the newsletter we erroniously identified Mathew Shannon as Matt Salmon. Our sincere apologies, Mathew.

Events Around the State

Message from our Executive Director

Larry Snead

As we get ready to launch an exciting fall/winter/ spring trail building and trail maintenance program south of the Mogollon Rim, I wanted you to know that we had a great summer in our north country. Starting in May, we had multiple work events each month with a lot of much needed maintenance work after the spring and summer rains. We had work events from the North Kaibab to the Mogollon Rim. We completed 5 more new miles of the AZT south of Mormon Lake bringing the total unfinished miles of the entire Arizona Trail to less than 80. We have only 2 miles of trail yet to build on this section south of Mormon Lake and we will have the Arizona Trail complete from Flagstaff to south of Superior.

We completed a major re-route of the AZT north of General Springs Trailhead including a magnificent switchback with a seven foot wall that was designed by Chuck Horner .

Coming up is a fall/winter/spring trail construction/maintenance season from the Mazatzal Mountains near Payson to the Rincon Valley south of Tucson to the Santa Rita Mountains, Canelo Hills and Huachuca Mountains. It promises to be our best trail work season ever. There will be lots of opportunities to have some fun, get some exercise, enjoy our wonderful Arizona outdoors and help us build and maintain the Arizona Trail. Check out the event calendar on the ATA website at www.aztrail.org.

Copper Butte Project Ready to Launch

As the cooler weather begins to reach the desert areas of the Arizona Trail, one of ATA's largest and most challenging trail construction projects will be launched at Picketpost Trailhead, near the town of Superior.

A large number of volunteers, agencies, and collaborative partners will be gathering together to kick off the beginning of this enormous trail building project located between the U.S. 60 highway and the Gila River to the south. This area contains the extremely rugged mountainous escarpment known as "The Spine" and presents a lot of difficult trail construction parameters.

One major sponsor of the trail construction, Resolution Copper Company, plans to invite many of its employees to volunteer to help with the project. The company has access to some of the special tools that could speed up construction and the company may even be able to helicopter supplies in to the volunteers working in this really remote, rugged terrain.

If you would like to be a part of one of the Arizona Trail's most exciting projects to make the final connection between Flagstaff and Tucson a reality, check our website for the dates of the kickoff events and trail construction activities.

New Boy Scout Badges Now Available

The Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America has produced a large, beautifully stitched Arizona Trail patch that is designed to fit on the back of a jacket. It was designed by ATA's graphic artist, Phyllis Ralley, and features a scenic Arizona landscape with a hiker, equestrian, and mountain biker incorporated into the design. All of the 43 passages of the Arizona Trail are stitched on accompanying patchs that align along the north and east borders of the state of Arizona. Each passage can have a brass or gold brad attached, designating each section of the Arizona Trail that the person wearing the jacket has experienced. ATA members and anyone else can purchase this beautiful patch from the Boy Scouts of America. Contact ATA's Scouting representative Neil Hornbeck by e-mail, neil@hornbeck.us, or call the Scout office at 602-955-7747 for more information or how to obtain the patches.

Events Around the State

More Signs Installed at AZT Trailheads

The strikingly beautiful and very large anodized metal Arizona Trail signs that were designed by Tonto National Forest Service architect, Kim Vander Hoek, Arizona State Parks, and Phyllis Ralley of the Arizona Trail Association are being installed at more and more Arizona Trail trailhead locations around the state. These signs are extremely large, heavy, and durable, and they require special installation techniques and expertise to install.

Some of the newest signs installed this year are located in the Mogollon Rim Ranger District at trailheads near Rock Crossing on Forest Road 751, at Pine Springs on FR 294 and at the future trailhead site located on Forest Road 92. Closer to Flagstaff, the completed trailhead located on Forest Road 622 off of the entrance road into Walnut Canyon is also boasting one of the large trailhead signs and an information kiosk is also located there.

These trailhead signs are an example of the significant, successful relationships we have developed over the years with our Arizona Trail land agency managers. They are demonstrating their commitment to the Arizona Trail project as much as they can every day, in spite of the wide range of public lands responsibilities they manage throughout the state.

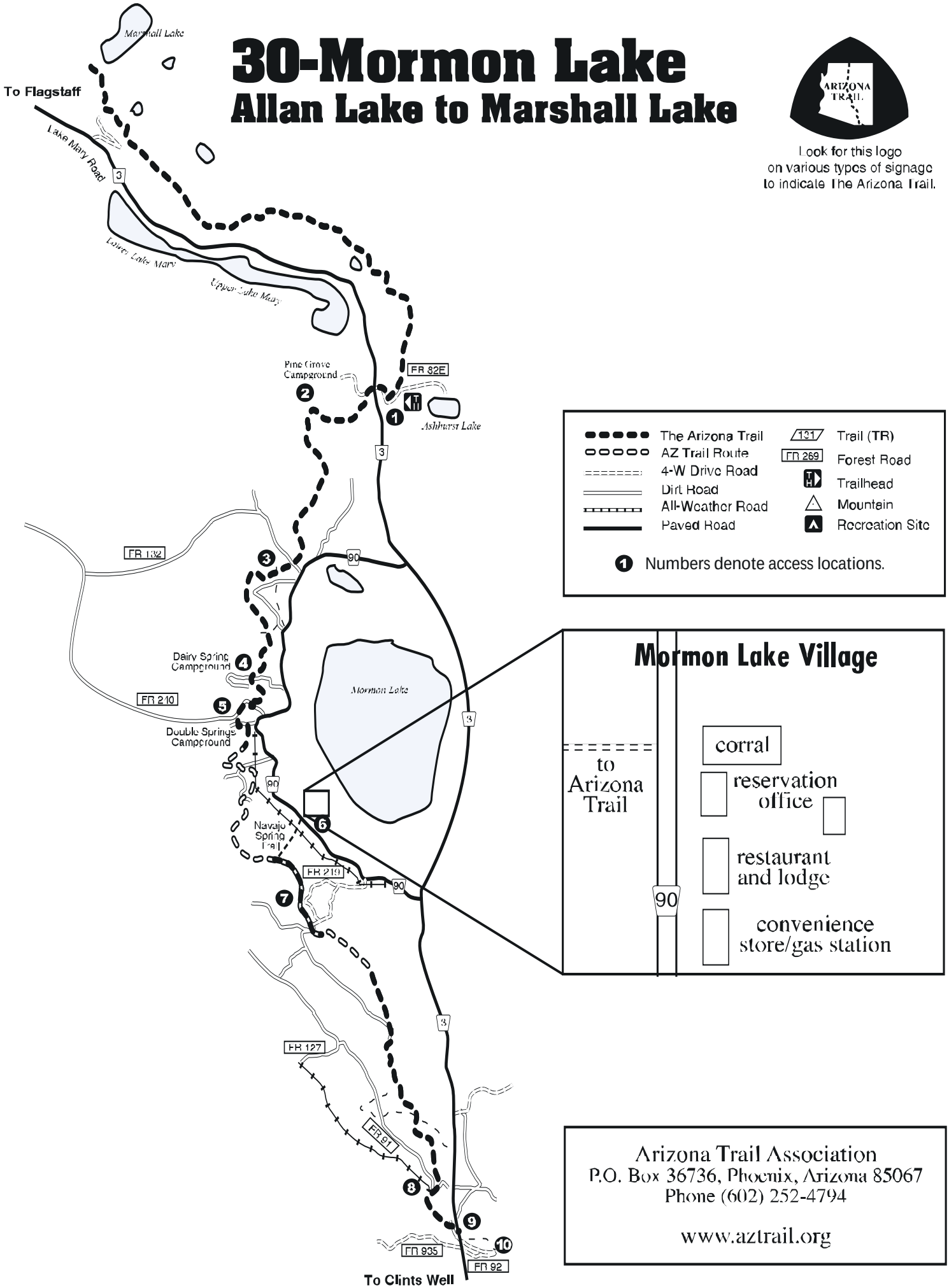
Arizona Trail Featured in Sunset Magazine

Sunset Magazine for September 2005 featured a beautiful and informative article on the AZT.

Statewide Business Membership Program Underway

We need your help to reach out to the businesses in your local community. If you frequently visit a local business, that would be a good candidate for a Business Membership in ATA. Businesses involved in recreation or the outdoors, such as a mountain bike sales or repair shop, a feed or tack store for your horse, or a hiking or camping retailer are excellent potential business partners with ATA. Almost all businesses are related to our members and the Arizona Trail in some way. Let us know whom you think would be a good candidate, and our Board member and Business Membership Chairman, Scott Summers, who is the Executive Vice President of National Bank of Arizona, will be happy to help you make that happen. We have beautiful Business Member plaques, certificates, and decals that can be displayed at a business location. Contact our ATA office and we'll do the rest to help you get you started!

30-Mormon Lake
Allan Lake to Marshall Lake



Arizona Trail Association
P.O. Box 36736, Phoenix, Arizona 85067
Phone (602) 252-4794

www.aztrail.org

30_Mormon Lake - Allan Lake to Marshall Lake

NOTE: The ATA is in the process of producing the Mormon Lake Trail Access Map, but in the meantime this list of access points from Mormon Lake Village may be used to get to points along the trail in that area. Check www.aztrail.org for availability of all Arizona Trail maps.

Arizona Trail Access Points near Mormon Lake Lodge

To reach the major AZT access points coming from Phoenix, turn on Lake Mary Road at exit 339 off I-17 and travel southeast on Forest Highway 3 (FH 3). If coming from Flagstaff, turn east on Lake Mary Road (FH 3) from either Beulah Blvd. or John Wesley Powell Blvd. Use the map access point numbers to locate the AZT access points listed below.

PLEASE NOTE: The road to Mormon Lake Village, FH (County Road) 90, is a LOOP road that is shaped like a semi-circle, with Mormon Lake Lodge near the center of the loop road. Both ends of the loop come out on FH 3. The following directions will indicate whether the access points are located using the north loop or south loop of this semi-circular road.

Access Point 1: HORSE LAKE TRAILHEAD - Turn north (left) at mile marker (mm) 327.1 on paved Forest Road (FR) 82E to Ashurst Lake. Go 0.8 mile and turn into the one-way entrance into the gravel trailhead for the AZT. This trailhead turnoff is 11.4 miles north of Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the north loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Access Point 2: PINE GROVE PARKING AREA - Directly south and across the road to Access Point 1 on FH 3 is a small parking area off of the paved road to Pine Grove Campground. Turn south and travel 0.2 miles to an unpaved parking area at a sharp turn in the road. Follow the closed road that parallels an old, elevated railroad alignment south a short distance (approximately 0.2 mile) from the parking area to its intersection with the AZT.

Access Point 3: FR 132 PARKING AREA - Travel to mm 324.3 on FH3, and turn right (south) on FR (County Road) 90, which is the north loop road turn for Mormon Lake Village. Travel 1.9 miles to unpaved FR 132, located on the northwest (right) side of FH (County Road) 90. Travel 0.3 miles to the area where the AZT crosses FR 132. Limited, seasonal parking areas are available several hundred yards further down FR 132 on the north side of the road. This access point is 5.5 miles north of Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the north loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Access Point 4: DAIRY SPRINGS TRAILHEAD – Continuing south another 1.8 miles on FH (County Road) 90, (3.7 miles from FH 3) turn right (west) on the Dairy Springs Campground unpaved road. Drive on the main campground road, keeping left to avoid the camping area, and travel approximately 0.3 mile to the trailhead, which has very limited parking (not adequate for horse trailers). There is an AZT information kiosk at the parking area. Follow the Mormon Mountain Trail for approximately 0.4 mile, where it intersects the AZT. Do not confuse the AZT with the short Dairy Springs Loop Trail around the campground. When you reach the AZT, a left turn goes south, a right turn heads north. This campground is closed during winter season, so trail users would need to park outside the campground to access the AZT. This access point is 3.8 miles north of Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the north loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Access Point 5: DOUBLE SPRING TRAILHEAD – Continuing south another 1.2 miles of FH (County Road) 90, (4.9 miles from FH3) turn right (west) on the Double Springs Campground unpaved road. Park outside the campground and go 0.3 mile, near the end of the campground road, where the AZT crosses the roadway. This access point is 2.6 miles north of Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the north loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Future Access Point 6: MORMON LAKE LODGE – Located 7.6 miles south of FH 3 on FH (County Road) 90. (When the AZT is completed in this area, follow the Navajo Spring Trail located across the street from Mormon Lake Lodge in the center of the Pioneer Village area. This connecting trail will intersect with the AZT in the future.

Future Access Point 7: FR 219 TRAILHEAD – This future trailhead is located 0.7 miles south of Mormon Lake Lodge. The AZT is not yet completed to this future trailhead.

Access Point 8: FR 91 AREA PARKING – Travel 1.3 miles on FH (County Road) 90 to the intersection with FH 3. Turn south and travel approximately 4.2 miles to mm 314.7, then turn right (west) on unpaved FR 91. Travel 0.5 mile to an unpaved parking area located just north of the point where the AZT crosses FR 91. This access point is 5.8 miles from Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the south loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Access Point 9: AZT FH3 HIGHWAY CROSSING – Traveling from Flagstaff on FR 3, approximately 1.1 miles south of FR 91 at mm 313.6, watch for a small pullover on the right side of FR 3. There is a gate access to the AZT on both sides of FH 3 at this point. This is 6.2 miles from Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the south loop of FH (County Road) 90.

Access Point 10: FR 92 PARKING AREA – Traveling from Flagstaff on FH 3, turn left (east) on FR 92 at approximately mm 313.8, only 0.2 miles from Access Point 9. Follow FR 92 for 0.25 mile to a large parking area with an AZT trailhead sign. This is planned for future trailhead development. This access point is 6.4 miles from Mormon Lake Lodge driving on the south loop of FH (County Road) 90.

HIGHWAY 87 TRAVELER'S NOTE: If you are traveling to Mormon Lake Lodge from State Highway 87 north of Payson, near Clint's Well turn left (west) on FH 3 just north of Clint's Well and follow the directions, noting the mile marker adjustments you will need to make when coming from the opposite direction, (mm 314.6 becomes 313.4).

Resources:

Maps: Coconino National Forest map. Coconino National Forest Visitors Guide, Coconino National Forest Recreational Opportunity Guide, Arizona Trail Association 1:24,000 passage topo map

For more information, contact:

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest, 5075 N. Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. 928-477-2255 or the Happy Jack Information Center located at Clint's Well at 928-477-2172.

Arizona Trail Merchandise

To order Patches, ATA Color Decals, Trail Access Maps packets or "ATA Esssential Guide for Long -Distance Travel" please contact Capitol Consulting at 602-712-1121 or email: maureen@capitolconsultingaz.com

	Number	x Price	Total
Patches	_____	**x $3.00**	_____
ATA Color Decals	_____	**x $1.00**	_____
ATA Trail Access Maps Packet	_____	**$6.50**	_____
ATA Essential Guide for Long-Distance Travel	_____	**x $3.50**	_____
		Total Due:	_____

To order Passage Topo Maps contact:

Arizona Public Lands Information Center
222 North Central, Ste. 101, Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602-417-9300-telephone or 602-417-9375-fax)

az_plic@blm.gov

36"x 36" Topographic Passage Map
list passage number(s) _____ x $10.00 _____
see aztrail.org for list of currently available segments

Please add shipping and handling:
up to 1 lb. - $3.00, 1-3 lbs. - $5.00, 3-5 lbs. - $7.50

Total Due: _____

Please phone first for availability on all items. We will return your check if an item is no longer available.

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Address _____

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Become an Arizona Trail Member

Build a Legacy!

The Arizona Trail needs **your** active support. Help build this resource for today and a legacy for future generations. Join **the Arizona Trail Association** and become a part of the legacy!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

❏ Trail Helper $20
Newsletter, AZT Decal, GPS Trail Data, Membership Card

❏ Trail Hand $50
Trail Access Maps Packet, Newsletter, AZT Decal, GPS Trail Data, Membership Card

❏ Trail Builder $100
New Arizona Trail Guidebook (mailed when released Fall, 2004)
Newsletter, AZT Patch, GPS Trail Data, Membership Card

❏ Trail Blazer $500
New Arizona Trail Guidebook (mailed when released Fall, 2004)
Arizona Trail Belt Buckle, Newsletter, AZT Patch, GPS Trail Data, Membership Card

❏ Trail Guardian $1,000
Plaque or Arizona Trail Belt Buckle, New Arizona Trail Guidebook, Newsletter, Patch, GPS Trail Data, Thank You Letter from ATA President, Membership Card

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

❏ Contribution for new trail development $ _____
❏ My Mile contribution for trail maintenance ($100/mile) $ _____
❏ This is a gift membership from _____

❏ New Member
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What are your primary non-motorized trail activities?

❏ Hiking ❏ Horseback Riding ❏ Mountain Biking
❏ Other. _____

Make check payable to Arizona Trail Association. Mail check to:

ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 36736
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85067-6736

E-mail: ata@aztrail.org Web Address: www.aztrail.org

(Do not include merchandise orders. Merchandise orders use separate check and mail to merchandise address.)

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ATA welcomes articles and photos from trail users and volunteers. EDITOR'S NOTE: When taking digital photos for submission to the newsletter please be sure your camera is set on a larger size photo. The small ones are OK for sharing on the web, but do not reproduce well in print. Thanks! Please mail to ATA: Arizona Trail Association, P.O. Box 36736, Phoenix, Arizona 85067 602-252-4794, www.aztrail.org or e-mail: editor@aztrail.org Next Deadline: December 15, 2005

Who To Contact in the ATA

Here's a helpful list of who to contact for some of the ATA's resources. If you have suggestions or want to provide any helpful information to these individuals, they would like to hear from you. We are not publishing home telephone numbers, only e-mail addresses. If you do not have access to e-mail, please call our ATA telephone number, 602-252-4794, and leave a message. Remember, most of these fine folks are ATA volunteers, so give them some time to respond to your requests!

Helen Hill - Segment Steward database & communications - deserthill@worldnet.att.net

Larry Snead - ATA Tool Trailer, Segment Steward information - sneadlarry@qwest.net

Randy Warner - ATA contributions, donations - warner@aztrail.org

Maureen Jeffries - Membership mailing list and database, invoices, payments and other financial information. - maureen@capitolconsultingaz.com

Dave Hicks - Trail Development dhicks15@cox.net

Julie Allbrooks - ATA maps, trail information, merchandise, and books - az_plic@blm.gov

Phyllis Ralley - general map questions maps@aztrail.org

Leave Your Own Legacy to Arizona's Future

Every day people like you support our organization through your membership, making an annual gift, attending an event, or volunteering your time to help others. Whatever your connection, we're grateful for your support, and you mean a great deal to us.

We hope you, your family, and friends feel you are touching the future through your involvement in the mission of the Arizona Trail Association. Through your help we are preserving some of Arizona's most pristine backcountry lands and experiences for tomorrow's generations.

Another significant way you can help the ATA in the future is to consider leaving a legacy through your will, life insurance policy, or trust. It could be a percentage or a specific dollar amount of your estate, IRA, or 401K plan.

Your gift, no matter the size, will help ensure the long term strength of our organization and help us continue our environmental education and support the importance of protecting Arizona's magnificent landscapes and natural habitats.

If you would like to learn more about participating in this legacy program you can contact the Arizona Trail Association at 602-252-4794, or send a request by e-mail to: ata@aztrail.org