

Arizona Trail NEWS

News and Information on the State's border-to-border Arizona Trail project

Vol. 13, No. 3 – Fall 2006

Members' Rendezvous at Mormon Lake!

The Arizona Trail Association, with unsurpassed help from Mormon Lake Lodge, sponsored a Members' Rendezvous September 29 through October 1 at Mormon Lake, Arizona. In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, ATA members came out in force to celebrate the day, their trail and their association. On Friday, a social hour was hosted by John and Gwen Rendall, then event organizer Dick Wertz and Sue Cox served up gallons of



Friday night's chefs Sue Cox and Dick Wertz prepare the now famous "Arizona Trail Stew"

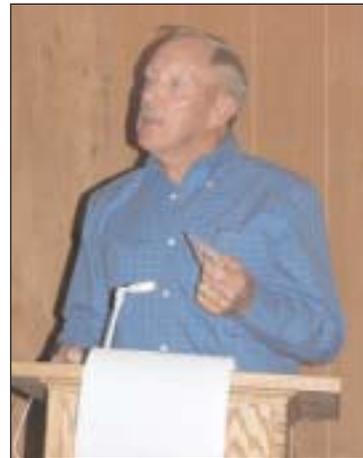
"Arizona Trail Stew" which went down well as the sun set and the air got crisp. Friday evening's speaker, Joe

Richards, spellbound his audience with stories from his 34 years as Sheriff of Coconino County.

Celebrations included the completion of the trail in that area by a crew of volunteers led by Larry Snead and crews from the Coconino National Forest on Saturday morning. ATA was delighted to have the hands-on help of Arizona Senator Robert Burns, who donned work gloves and helped finish our State Scenic Trail. Crews from



Bikers took self guided tours of the area all weekend long.



Friday night speaker Joe Richards illustrated his words with a packet of beans and seeds distributed to the audience for reflection.

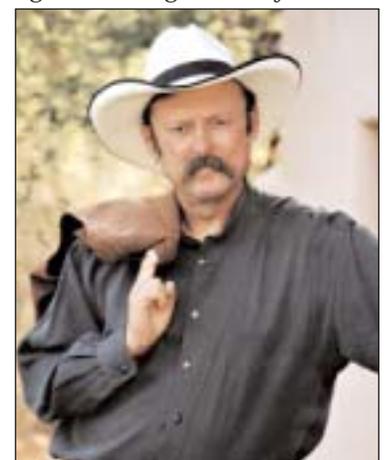
Coconino National Forest had been working feverishly at every opportunity to bring the trail as close to completion as possible. Their tireless efforts in the area are now rewarded with one of the most beautiful stretches of the Arizona Trail entirely open to the public.

The weather could not have been more perfect, the food was delicious, and many, many members won raffle prizes thanks to ATA, REI, Summit Hut and Trail Blazer Magazine. Thanks go out to the many volunteers who made this a fun event.

Saturday was a busy day with hikes, bike rides, horse rides and a horseshoe throwing contest organized by ATA founder Dale Shewalter.

There was also a kids' fishing contest hosted by ATA Executive Director Dave Hicks and a highly popular class on how to operate your GPS device taught by David Babcock, head of the ATA GPS team.

By the end of the day everyone was ready to relax with hors d'oeuvres hosted by Gary and Gay Hohner. Mike Headrick and Ron Cordova provided some acoustic tunes around a campfire as the group enjoyed a bar-b-que dinner prepared by Mormon Lake Lodge. (The Lodge also sponsored the Sunday morning pancake breakfast!) The speaker for Saturday evening was the inimitable Bob "Boze"



Saturday night speaker Bob "Boze" Bell, executive editor of True West magazine

continued on page 4



Dave's Arizona Trail Top Ten

From the ATA Executive Director (executivedirector@aztrail.org)

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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Free ATA Trail Friend Membership – Bring a friend into the ATA. With your 2007 ATA membership renewal, the ATA is also offering you a one-year gift membership for a non-member friend. Look for a renewal letter in the October mail.

New Arizona Trail Merchandise – Some really eye-catching Arizona Trail T-shirts, long sleeve denim shirts, a spiffy polo, baseball hats and bandanas are now available from the ATA. They are great to wear and also make a unique holiday gift for anyone. Check them out on the website (www.aztrail.org).

Trail Development – Fall 2006 and into 2007, new trail construction is planned for a) the White Canyon passage north of the Gila River; b) Alamo Canyon southwest of the town of Superior; and c) the Cienega Corridor near Tucson. The Tucson folks are very jazzed about the trail being built in Colossal Cave Mountain Park. And, happily, by the time that you read this, the Mormon Lake passage should be complete. The Peaks Ranger District folks really pushed this summer to get that done. Way to go!

Off-the-beaten-path Trail Maintenance – There are many trail work events being scheduled for the upcoming months. Don't be shy; they all can use you. Some of them attract quite a number of people but others only a few. The entire trail needs our attention. Will you please consider joining one of our stewards who toil in the more remote, outlying areas for a day or two? No experience needed! Keep an eye on the website's event calendar or contact the steward directly.

Trail Maintenance Never Ends – Stewards, I have asked Chief Steward Anna Pfender to coordinate a second Annual Trail Maintenance and Assessment of each AZT passage. This really helps us know the condition and needs of the entire Arizona Trail. Stewards, you are the most knowledgeable about your segment, so please expediently complete the short survey that will be sent you.

Proposed Arizona Trail North of Flagstaff – Arizona Trail supporters are anxiously waiting for the courts to clear the way for the proposed trail that skirts the San Francisco Peaks.

Trail News – The summer proved tough again on the Arizona Trail. The Warm fire near Jacob's Lake severely scorched this lovely piece of the AZT. And at the other end of Arizona, torrential rains washed out the road leading to Montezuma Pass, currently preventing access to the southern AZT terminus. And, an early season fire burned the AZT path on the Highline Trail near Pine, but Tonto National Forest personnel led by Walt Thole quickly put this trail back into public use. Keep an eye on the web site's "Trail Conditions."

Win a Bike – The Conservation Fund and Michelob Ultra have donated a Trek hybrid bicycle that will be given away. Check out the Arizona Trail display and bike at the Wide World of Maps store in Phoenix. The drawing will be held in late October.

National Public Lands Day – My special thanks to Dick Wertz for his above and beyond efforts in bringing to you a superb weekend event at Mormon Lake Lodge. Dick is a long-time ATA member and AZT supporter. His many actions for the ATA speak far louder than words.

ATA Members Welcome – The next ATA Board meeting is scheduled for October 28 in Tucson at the Pima County Parks and Rec office (3600 W. River Road). This board meeting is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ATA members are invited and welcome to attend all board meetings.



A Message From The Chief Trail Steward



By Anna Pfender

Wow, summer is officially over! If it's 100 degrees in Phoenix it must be fall, right? Well, I think it's fall somewhere out on the Arizona Trail because I'm starting to see some work events on the calendar for those areas of the state where we all love to hike, bike and ride during our Arizona "winter." There are some great events on the calendar for southern and central Arizona, so don't miss the opportunity to "help out" on the Arizona Trail too.

My focus this summer was up in the high country where we pushed to complete trail construction on the Mormon Lake Passage and put in place new stewards in that area as well as the Flagstaff area. I was also able to connect with some of our veteran stewards in the Happy Jack area to learn about their aggressive re-route and trail improvement plans. I'm finding that even though we have over 90% of the trail "completed," there are many areas where re-alignments and major trail upgrading projects are either planned or currently in progress. Not to mention extensive work that will be required over the next year to repair fire and water damaged sections of the trail on the North Rim and down in the Coronado National Memorial. It's great to see so many stewards out there not just looking to do routine maintenance, but also seeking to improve the sustainability and enjoy-ability of the trail for the future.

I am once again pleased to introduce many new stewards who have signed on since my last report in June.

Mark Gullo, Parks, representing Flagstaff Biking Organization – Passage 33b – Flagstaff

Richard Kane, Tucson, representing the Southern Arizona Hiking Club – Passage 10 – Redington Pass

Douglas Parch, Chandler – Passage 30c – Mormon Lake

Mark Weinberger, Prescott – Passage 30a – Mormon Lake

Jack Welch, Flagstaff, representing Flagstaff Bicycle Advisory Committee – Passage 33a – Flagstaff

In addition, Passage 14a steward John Rendall, representing SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, has also agreed to take on stewardship responsibilities for Passage 13. Many



Segment steward Conrad Langley on July 15 as he led his crew into the final construction phase of the the Mormon Lake Passage on Segment 30b.

thanks to these new and veteran stewards for taking on such a critical role within the Arizona Trail Association.

Currently, plans are underway to utilize a portion of our State appropriated funds on signage improvement, tool and tool trailer upgrades, and training for our stewards and volunteers. I will be working hard with our stewards and land managers over the next few months to complete these important projects so look for a progress report on these items next time. Until then...see you out on the trail this fall and winter.

2006 Volunteer Data

By Doug Marsh

Passage	Events	Total Hours	Passage	Events	Total Hours
1	Huachuca Mountains	270	19C	Cottonwood Canyon	273.5
2	Canelo Hills East	178	22	Saddle Mt	14
3	Canelo Hills West	234.5	23	Mazatzal Divide	244
5	Santa Rita Mountains	153.5	28A	General Springs	770
7	Rincon Valley	2234	28B	Moqui	209
10	Redington Pass	141	29A	Jacks Canyon	268
13	Oracle	24	29B	Turkey Mtn	25
14A	Tucson Wash	40	29D	Allan Lake	663.5
14B	Antelope Peak	20	30A	Fulton	10
15A	Boulders	481.5	30B	Double Springs	203
15B	Ripsey Wash	41	31A	Marshall Lake	248
16	White Canyon	29.5	40	Kaibab South	240
17	Alamo Canyon	3608.5	41A	Kaibab Central A	108.5
18A	Whitford Canyon	235	42	Kaibab North	150
18B	Reavis Canyon	103.5	43	Buckskin Mtns	31
19A	Reavis Ranch	26	AZ Trail Assn	General	2305
19B	Two Bar Ridge	21		Grand Total	13603.5



Members' Rendezvous at Mormon Lake

continued from page one



Heidi Cordova models one of the new ATA T-shirt designs.

Bell, editor of *True West* magazine, who informed us about the "real" story of Tombstone, and embraced the Arizona Trail project in its efforts to preserve a part of the West.

The ATA introduced several new items of apparel for sale at the Mormon Lake event. Denim shirts, polo shirts, two T-shirt designs, hats and bandanas were sold. Check the web site – these items will soon be available for sale there.

On Sunday several hikers took one last trip to Navajo Springs in a hike led by Diane Wertz, and a group of equestrians took a trail ride up the same trail which left from Mormon Lake Lodge's Old Western Town, site of the weekend's activities.



Dave and Patricia Hicks won the award for courage when they brought eight of their grandchildren to the event. Some of them are seen here at the fishing contest with grandpa!

Many thanks to the sponsors and the numerous volunteers who stepped up to make this a hugely successful event.

– by Phyllis Ralley



Dick Wertz and Bob Bohannon volunteered to test the coffee which was ready each morning at dawn.



Trail stewards Gary and Gay Hohner hosted the Saturday afternoon social hour.



Mat Shannon dismounts from the shuttle that took hikers to Double Springs for a hike back on the Arizona Trail to Mormon Lake Village.



The word got out about the excellent food at this event. Thanks Mormon Lake Lodge, and Scott and Laura Gold, for sponsoring the Saturday night Dinner and Sunday morning breakfast. Thanks, Chuck Horner, for flipping all those pancakes!!!

A TALE FROM THE TRAIL



The 2006 National Public Lands Day and Arizona Trail Association Members' Rendezvous was well-attended and a lot of fun. I will devote much of my space in this issue to give personal thanks and acknowledgements to many individuals who made this event so successful. As often seems to happen, sadly and unintentionally, it is possible that some deserving people will remain unrecognized for their work.

A very warm thank you goes to Laura and Scott Gold and staff of Mormon Lake Lodge for providing a perfect setting and some wonderful meals. Mormon Lake Lodge has continually shown dedicated support for the Arizona Trail and the ATA. We are grateful! Multiple thanks go to Dick Wertz, ATA membership chairperson, for his tireless work on this event. Dick, along with his wife, Diane, put in many hours of planning and physical work to make this weekend a success. Dave Hicks, ATA Executive Director, and Phyllis Ralley, ATA Office Manager, deserve a lot of thanks for their work on this event. Laddie and Sue Cox are to be thanked for their continued trail building leadership and great vittles. Also working throughout the weekend were Joan Parmer, Karen Shannon, Chuck Horner and Carl and Dave Babcock. Social hours were hosted by Gwen and John Rendall and Gary and Gay Hohner. Thanks, folks. A big thank you goes to our evening speakers, former Coconino County Sheriff Joe Richards and western historian Bob Boze Bell. It must have been a very gratifying event for attendees Larry Snead and Jan Hancock. Larry, former ATA executive director and Chief Trail Steward, has for many years been instrumental in the development of the Trail around Mormon Lake – and the last bit was completed during this weekend. Jan, former long-term ATA president, has ridden horseback many times over this section of Trail and during her tenure much of the Trail through the Coconino National Forest has been completed. Thank you Arizona State Senator Bob Burns for working to complete the Trail on Saturday. Thanks, too, to the Mormon Lake and Peaks Ranger District Recreation Staff for their work to complete this section of Trail. They are truly devoted public land managers. Additional thanks goes to the many Arizona Trail Stewards and ATA Board members in attendance, as well as the ATA Chief Trail Steward, Anna Pfender. We are all thankful for our door prize sponsors, Recreational Equipment, Inc., Summit Hut, Trail Blazer Magazine, and Mormon Lake Lodge. I happily give thanks to the attending individuals who have been

involved with the Arizona Trail from the very beginning: Diane and Dick Wertz, Bob Bohannon, and John and Lisa Nelson.

There were smiles and good camaraderie everywhere I looked throughout the weekend. It was especially pleasing to see the fun being had by Hicks' Hikers, eight of Dave and Patricia Hicks' grandchildren in attendance. I will also mention that Chuck Horner and I plan to practice before next year's horseshoe tournament – honest!

Sheriff Joe Richards' Friday evening talk centered on local history, moral character, and family values. His words motivated me to relate this story at the end of his presentation:

In the late 1980s, Joel McCurry of the Tusayan Ranger District on the Kaibab National Forest scheduled a Student Conservation Association work trip to build about six miles of the Coconino Rim Trail, a segment of the Arizona Trail. Teenagers and young adults in their twenties from around the country pay their way to do various service projects for the SCA. This project was to last two weeks. At the end of the first week, blisters, physical strain, and frustration had taken its toll on the crew. I was there when Joel broke the news to the "kids" that they had only completed about one and a half miles of the trail. A few were ready to call it quits and a few were indifferent. After some minutes of introspection, the "leaders" took over. "We can do it!" "We can at least rough it in!" It was an inspiring moment to see all of them pick up their tools and work with renewed determination. They did it! Within the next week the trail was indeed roughed in or better. The night before their departure, Joel and his wife, Barb, put on a cookout for the crew. After the feast, we carpoled to Grandview Point on the south rim of the Grand Canyon for a look into the dark abyss. As we sat on the stone wall, joking and talk of home gave way to silence. Updrafts from the depths below brought smells of mesquite and greasewood and earth. Then a young voice, a girl's voice, spoke clear and true, "You know? Someday I'm going to bring my kids back here to show them what I've done."

This is much of what the Arizona Trail is about – linking Arizona's past to the present and the future. And that is what so many of you are doing as you build and support the Arizona Trail. Thank You. As always, I hope to see you on the Arizona Trail.

Dale Shewalter, Founder

Leave Your IRA to Charity

The Arizona Republic reported in the Thursday, September 7, 2006 Business Section that under the recently passed Pension Protection Act, IRA owners who transfer IRA funds directly to a charity can avoid the income tax bite that normally applies on withdrawals from traditional IRAs.

The article pointed out that some restrictions apply, including that only those investors ages 70 1/2 and older can take advantage of the rule. Talk to a tax/financial advisor if you are interested. Of course, the Arizona Trail Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization



Reports from the Field

1_Huachuca Mountains



Huachuca Hiking Club members and ATA Chief Trail Steward in Sunnyside Canyon during the March 31 – April 2 work event. Standing left to right: Rod Crick, Hanna Hooper, Tom Chornock, Steve Saway, Gordon Haynes, and Brenda Haynes. Kneeling is Anna Pfender with her dogs Bailey and Chevy. Not pictured is Doug Marsh and Bernie Stalmann who also helped out during the three day event.

Two work events were held in Sunnyside Canyon to clear over-grown vegetation and install new signs and cairns. During March 31 through April 2, 2006, members of the Huachuca Hiking Club along with ATA Chief Trail Steward Anna Pfender and ATA member Doug Marsh made great progress in clearing the Arizona Trail from upper Scotia Canyon to about three miles into Sunnyside Canyon. New signs and cairns were placed in lower Sunnyside Canyon to improve trail signage and route delineation at creek crossings. Using loppers, bow-saws, and cross-cut saws, we brushed about three and a half miles of the trail to a point in upper Sunnyside Canyon about two miles from the Crest Trail junction. On September 23, 2006 a crew from the Huachuca Hiking Club hiked into upper Sunnyside Canyon to continue the brushing work. Though much of this area was heavily over-grown with scrub oak and mountain mahogany, the crew was able to clear another mile of trail to the junction of the Copper Glance Mine Trail, which is about one mile from the Crest Trail junction. Another work event will be scheduled to clear the remaining one mile of trail in upper Sunnyside Canyon. However, with a round trip hike of about ten miles and 2500 feet elevation change, this event will require a high energy trail crew!

29D_south of Allan Lake, near Happy Jack

On Friday, September 8, Boy Scouts and Moms and Dads began arriving at the work event campsite to begin building a section of the Arizona trail on Saturday. The group was Scout Troop 88 from Gilbert. The event was a service project to support Jean-Luc Meuret, an Eagle Scout candidate who organized the volunteers into teams. Months of planning for this event (in conjunction with the Arizona Trail Association and the Blue Ridge Ranger District-USFS) came together to produce a productive weekend.

The scouts and parents were organized into six teams and goals were set. After safety training and trail building instruction from Merle Parmer and Tom Coulson, the teams went to work. Overall supervision was provided by Tom and Merle, with Merle also acting as “technical advisor.” According to Merle’s “distance measuring wheel,” 0.38 miles of trail were built, so everyone was pleased with the progress.

Gourmet meals were provided by Tim Meuret (Jean-Luc’s Dad) with assistance from older brother Andre. The Scouts even provided entertainment around the evening campfire, doing a Monty Python skit, much to our amusement.

Many thanks to: Jean-Luc Meuret for organizing the group, Tim Meuret for the great food, Merle Parmer for the technical support and supervision, and Rose Harley for providing Sabrina from her office and for providing the Porta-John.

Tom & Linda Coulson



Reports from the Field



40_Kaibab Plateau South

June 10 - June 15 Clean up

Trail was in good shape. It appears that a group had been through with chain saws earlier so winter damage had been cleared. There were a few large trees down so we reported these to forest service. Rest were manageable with hand tools. We had to move camp twice due to Warm Fire. Hope damage to the trail isn't too severe.

George Hay



Phil Lucas and Elton Askew

28_Blue Ridge



Left to right: Dan Ruppert, Margaret & Charlie Medernach, Merle Parmer, Chuck Horner, Becky Shipe, Moira Alexander, in back Dan Shein, Shannon Jones, Charlie Scully, Dick Wertz, in front Lou Hoover, Honey Albrecht. Not pictured: Larry Snead

This is fun to be able to send in information on another fantastic work event held August 11, 12 and 13 on the General Springs segment, Blue Ridge Passage. We camped at General Springs and had really nice weather except in the late afternoon – beautiful rain came down while we were having New Belgium Brewery social time under the rain flies. Fourteen attended, of which four were first timers on the Arizona Trail and became seasoned workers in a very short period of time. To repeat from other events, so much gets accomplished by so few and what great quality work. Not every work event allows you to work, stop for a rest and listen to a stream trickle, wind blow thru the tall pines and the birds and squirrels chattering. Larry Snead and I want to say a great big thank you to all.

Chuck Horner



Left to right: Lynn Ericson, Elton Askew, Nancy Monsour, Phil Lucas, George Hay, Brenda Busboom, Sheila O'Neal and Lynn Maring

TRAIL TIDBITS



Going, going, GONE!

The Triumph motorcycle donated to the Arizona Trail Association by Terry Woolston sold this summer for \$6,500. Its new owner is a 58-year-old fellow reliving that teenage passion for adrenaline on two wheels. The majority of the sale price will go toward the Arizona Trail's first annual signature fund raising event.

New HQ

The Arizona Trail Association's headquarters are now located at 2517 W. Holly in central Phoenix, and is fast becoming the nerve-center for ATA meetings and business, according to executive director Dave Hicks. It's leased to the ATA by Meyer Turken, owner of Turken Industrial Properties, a long-time supporter of the Arizona Trail.

Technology Needed

The Arizona Trail Association is seeking the donation of a "reasonably up-to-date" laptop computer for recording data and information in the field. It will also facilitate members' ability to give Arizona Trail PowerPoint presentations to the public. Please contact the ATA office (602-252-4794) if you want more information or know of an angel who can grant our wish!



2006 Interpretive Hikes

This year marked the introduction of the Arizona Trail Association's first interpretive hikes. These events are designed to offer the highest level of educational exposure to the Trail. Coordinated by the Senior Botanist from Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden, Wendy Hodgson, the events have featured high level instructors from a wide base of disciplines. Wendy hopes to expand this program and offer more events next year. Watch the ATA web site for more details and don't miss out on these unique opportunities throughout the year.

July 15 - Walnut Canyon southeast of Flagstaff along the Arizona Trail

On July 15, 2006, twenty-one eager hikers and plant enthusiasts were treated to a wonderful experience, with Phyllis Hogan, ethnobotanist and director of Arizona Ethnobotanical Research Association and founder of Winter Sun Trading Post in Flagstaff. She is a well-known herbalist, having worked and studied with Hopi and Navajo elders since the 1970s. As we sat under a juniper or surrounded other favorite plants, we listened to her explain far more than how a plant was used. Phyllis helped us understand the essence of the plants to the people and how we can incorporate this into our own lives, respecting the plants

and the habitat and living without negative thoughts, basic to Native Americans' philosophy and lifestyle. Despite a bad cold and experiencing a family loss, Phyllis passionately and energetically shared her incredible depth of knowledge, experiences, and beliefs as they relate to plants and indigenous peoples. We all felt very grateful for this opportunity to learn from a master – we knew this was a special opportunity and time with Phyllis. We look forward to another outing with her next summer!

– Wendy Hodgson

September 15-17, 2006 Huachuca Mountains – Arizona Trail Field Trip

Photos courtesy of Marceline VandeWater (Scottsdale).

An eager group of eight led by Tice Supplee departed from Phoenix, Friday, September 15, 2006 at about 2 p.m. The adventurous group members were Harvey Beatty (Master birder of the group), Mel Bramley (our botanist for the trip), Kathy Howard (hiker and maker of fantastic salads), Frank Insana (our youngest naturalist), Karen LaFrance, Dori Pederson (hiker and photographer) and Marceline VandeWater (our botanist, birder, photographer



and maker of awesome desserts and chicken salad!). Grace and Sam Young joined us for the Saturday hike up Sunnyside Canyon. We traveled to our weekend base camp, Heartstone Mountain Ranch, a retreat located in Lyle Canyon south of Canelo and north of Parker Canyon Lake. Our accommodations were the "bird house," a lovely house with two bedrooms and lots of room for cooking and relaxing. Half of the group camped outside on the grounds and the rest took advantage of the indoor space. The birds

at Heartstone Mountain Ranch proved to be outstanding. Over our stay we saw Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Gambel's Quail, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Barn Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Jay, Common Raven, Northern Flicker (Red-shafted), Arizona Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Orange-crowned Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

An early start on Saturday morning got us to the Miller Peak Wilderness boundary and Sunnyside Trail that is a segment of the Arizona Trail by 7:30 a.m. We met Grace and Sam and started out on a beautiful cool and clear day. We encountered a female Elegant Trogon almost immediately in a grove of live oak trees. She posed for pictures and everyone got a great look. Most of us took our time examining plants and admiring the wildflowers. Sunnyside was flowing and we had many crossings as we worked our way up the trail. Harvey, Karen and Sam decided to move faster and reached Pat Scott Peak and the junction with the Huachuca Mountains Crest Trail. Later in the day Dori and Frank also made it to the Crest Trail junction. Harvey had a GPS and the elevation at the trailhead was about 6,000' and his group had lunch at about 8,500'. Pat Scott Peak was about 0.3 mile from that point. Along the way we encountered Painted Redstarts, Acorn Woodpecker, Mexican Jays, and Brown Creepers. We found a nice seep crossing the trail and encountered a large

2006 Interpretive Hikes *continued*



mixed flock with Bushtits, Olive Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, "western" Flycatcher, and Western Wood Pewee. We had a nice lunch break at Rattlesnake Spring and then continued up into mixed conifer habitat where, between the two groups, we saw Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-eyed Junco, Northern Flicker (Red-shafted), White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Bridled Titmouse, and Spotted Towhee. Turkey Vultures and Ravens circled overhead. The call of one raven sounded like the "Chihuahuan", but we never got a size comparison to confirm. On the way down we encountered two Hermit Thrushes. We also saw "Ruf-Allen" Hummingbirds (could not discern which of the two species) and a Hepatic Tanager on the morning drive to the trailhead. Other species of interest during the day included Spiny Lizard, Arizona Gray Squirrel, Horned Lizard (species not determined) and a doe White-tailed Deer.

On Sunday after birding Heartstone Mountain Ranch and having great breakfast and lunch menus whipped up by various "teams," we traveled to the Audubon Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch to find grasslands birds. The grasslands throughout were spectacular, shoulder high seed

heads of many varieties of grama grasses (blue, sideoats, hairy to name the most common ones) and beautiful green sacaton in the drainages cutting through the ranch and adjacent Babacomari Ranch. Highlight was a Gray Hawk flying overhead as we drove in. Dr. Linda Kennedy, ARR Director, confirmed that one had been in the vicinity. She also helped us confirm the identification of various plants we had seen in Sunnyside Canyon. Other birds were American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Barn Swallow, Western Bluebird, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Canyon Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Horned Lark. Scaled Quail and a small herd of Pronghorn Antelope were seen on the drive home to complete the day. We were too late for singing Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows, so we were unable to put them on the list this trip.

The weekend was fabulous and everyone brought skills to the group to make it a wonderful natural history trip. For those intrigued by Heartstone Mountain Ranch the website is <http://www.heartstoneranch.com/>

– Tice Supplee



Call for Articles

We are inviting you to submit your "trail tales" to us for possible use in the Arizona Trail newsletter. We're seeking your personal experiences with the trail, be it as a hiker, biker, equestrian, trail worker, trail steward, trail supporter...tell us or show us how the trail has touched your life. And if you have ideas for articles regarding other aspects of the trail, bring 'em on.

Articles, photos (we need fairly high resolution for print publication), drawings, multimedia...we'll look at it all.

We do have a review committee to help guide the selection of material, but don't let that stop you. We'd love it if you wanted to sit on this committee. The more the merrier.

Please send your submissions to: ata@aztrail.org or mail them to: Arizona Trail Association, PO Box 36736, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6736

Thanks for your interest in the Arizona Trail! We look forward to hearing your adventures.

Best regards,

Terri Gay and Chris Johnson, Co-Editors, ATA News

Cards and Letters

We learned at the Mormon Lake event that Dean Prichard, long time friend of the Arizona Trail, has had an accident which currently has him hospitalized. Cards are being forwarded to him. You may write to Dean Prichard, PO Box 724, Oracle, Az 85623. Dean is a founding member of the Arizona Trail Association and served on the Board of Directors for several years. Dean has helped many hikers plan their trips through the Santa Catalina Mountains. We wish you a speedy recovery Dean! Best wishes.



Calendar of Events and Activities

First Annual Arizona Trail Association Volunteer Work Event - Saturday, December 2, 2006

A special work event has been scheduled just for ATA volunteers. This year's event will be held at the Picketpost trailhead area just east of Apache Junction. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to new trail construction on a beautiful 12-mile re-route of the Alamo Canyon Passage of the trail.

Don't miss out. Bring your family and friends. No prior trail work experience is necessary. Tools and instruction will be provided.

To Sign Up, Contact: Anna Pfender, 480-518-6021, mtbbabe@cox.net or Larry Snead, 602-279-0443 sneadlarry@qwest.net

Free Continental Breakfast, Free Lunch, Free Raffle Prizes
Watch the ATA website for more details coming soon

October 21-22 - Walnut Canyon

Join us for a fall outing of light maintenance on this beautiful segment of the Arizona Trail near Flagstaff. Four enthusiastic new stewards are planning light work projects for this Saturday with optional early-evening social time, camping and a Sunday morning hike on this 6.7 mile segment. If you would like to help the Arizona Trail and would like to meet other avid hikers, please call Andrea at (480) 488-8456 or send an e-mail to madcap_thinker@yahoo.com (with AZ Trail in the subject line) for further details.

October 22 - Santa Ritas

We will be traveling by mountain bike from FR 165 to Box Canyon Road. We will install signage, complete brushing, and clean some tread. This will be a full day event and physically strenuous. Bring sufficient water and food. A shuttle will also be needed between Box Canyon Rd. and FR 165.

The work this season will be reduced in scope due to limited agency resources. Our projects may also be subject to change in order to better support the efforts of the USDAFS, and specifically the fine folks from the Nogales Ranger District.

The planned projects (still) include improving the drainage in the "Flume" area; realignments along the pipeline above the Gardener Canyon Trailhead, and north of Box Canyon Rd.; completion of the resource protection project at FR 785 and Gardener Creek, and brushing / tread work from FR 165 to Oak Tree Canyon. We sometimes ride in to work on mountain bikes and use a B.O.B trailer to haul tools.

Events are held on Sunday and the meeting place is the parking area at the I-10 and SR83 interchange. Standard meeting time is 8:00 AM and we will wait until 8:05 AM. If you'd like to join Bill, Dan, Dick, Jeremy, and Patrick; please contact Stephen Wood at aztraildoc@yahoo.com

November

November 11-12 - Tortilla Mountains

Join us for a weekend of fun out on the Boulders Segment southeast of Florence. Our maintenance weekend will include free happy hour and dinner Saturday night as well as breakfast on Sunday sponsored by New Belgium Brewing Company, the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona and the ATA. We guarantee a great time around the campfire with prize giveaways, too! Camping is primitive, so bring your gear, water, and lunches. Contact Anna Pfender at (480) 518-6021 or mtbbabe@cox.net for directions and details.

November 19 - Santa Ritas

The work this season will be reduced in scope due to limited agency resources. Our projects may also be subject to change in order to better support the efforts of the USDAFS, and specifically the fine folks from the Nogales Ranger District.

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in the "Flume" area; realignments along the pipeline above the Gardener Canyon Trailhead, and north of Box Canyon Rd.; completion of the resource protection project at FR 785 and Gardener Creek, and brushing / tread work from FR 165 to Oak Tree Canyon. We sometimes ride in to work on mountain bikes and use a B.O.B trailer to haul tools.

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November 30-December 1 - Reavis Canyon

Brush trimming and dispersal on the upper end of the Reavis Canyon trail. Car camping at the intersection of the Arizona Trail and FS Road 650. Four wheel driving with high clearance vehicle needed to get to work site. It will take about 2 1/2 to 3 hours to get to the site. Camping area is high (4500 feet) and has beautiful views. Dinner will be provided Thursday the 30th and breakfast December 1st. Bring plenty of water, lunches and camping gear. Email the Wertz's at rawertz@commspeed.net for directions and more information.

December

December 2 - Alamo Canyon

A special work event has been scheduled just for ATA volunteers. This year's event will be held at the Picketpost trailhead area just east of Apache Junction. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to new trail construction on a beautiful 12 mile re-route of the Alamo Canyon Passage of the trail. The work day will include a free continental breakfast, free lunch, and free raffle prizes. Bring your family and friends. No prior trail work experience is necessary. Tools and instruction will be provided. To sign up contact Anna Pfender at (480) 518-6021 or mtbbabe@cox.net, or Larry Snead at (602) 279-0443 or sneadlarry@qwest.net.

December 17 - Santa Ritas

The work this season will be reduced in scope due to limited agency resources. Our projects may also be subject to change in order to better support the efforts of the USDAFS, and specifically the fine folks from the Nogales Ranger District.

The planned projects (still) include improving the drainage in the "Flume" area; realignments along the pipeline above the Gardener Canyon Trailhead, and north of Box Canyon Rd.; completion of the resource protection project at FR 785 and Gardener Creek, and brushing / tread work from FR 165 to Oak Tree Canyon. We sometimes ride in to work on mountain bikes and use a B.O.B trailer to haul tools.

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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, 2006

Arizona Trail Association Premier Legacy Partners for 2005 & 2006

Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation
Arizona Public Service
Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.
Bureau of Land Management
National Bank of Arizona
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Phelps Dodge
REI
Resolution Copper
SRP

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!

Anna Pfender - Chief Trail Steward - Segment Steward
information, work event information - mtbbabe@cox.net

Dick Wertz - Membership Coordinator
Special membership programs, membership information
rawertz@commspeed.net

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

Phyllis Ralley - Membership mailing list and database,
invoices, payments and other financial information. -
ata@aztrail.org