

Arizona Trail

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

NEWS



Super Bowl? What Super Bowl?

14th Annual Members Meeting Gathers Trail Supporters

When you have the super trail enthusiasts the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) has, you don't need a Super Bowl to have a big party!

Over 130 ATA supporters gathered on February 2, 2008 for another enjoyable annual meeting. The only evidence of that "other" event in Arizona that weekend was the very full parking lot due to an NFL breakfast near the National Bank of Arizona where the ATA lunch and meeting was held.

Want the play by play? First, attendees learned that the Arizona Office of Tourism featured the Arizona Trail on



Former ATA President and equestrian Jan Hancock, author of a national resource book on the trail requirements of horses, moderated a panel discussion among equestrians. See article on page 5.

Teamwork and partnership with land managers are now especially important with the funding challenges facing agencies at all levels. Support from Arizona State Parks, non-profits, businesses, clubs, government entities and the "\$10 to \$1000 philanthropists" all are critical to meeting the funding needs of our trail.



New ATA President Scott Summers gave the Treasurer's report at the Annual Meeting.

its annual visitors' map, with 1.7 million copies now in circulation. Then, they heard there's only 51 miles left to complete this thing. And the scoring drive? Mark your calendars, sports fans, for February 4, 2012, because the end-zone celebration will include the Arizona state centennial, the ATA annual meeting, and ZERO miles to build in 2012.

Executive Director Dave Hicks ran down the highlights on maintaining and completing the trail: 98 work events, representing a good portion of the 22,000 ATA volunteer hours worked last year: 16 miles of new trail, plus seven to eight miles of reroutes.

Even with that kind of dedicated work, Dave pointed out heavy usage, vegetation growth, fires, floods, erosion and vandalism all contribute to trail degradation that requires attention. Other needs include signage, trailheads and informational materials. And reroutes also become important as the trail nears completion.



Outgoing ATA President, and newly-elected Treasurer, Kent Taylor congratulates Laddie Cox and Sue Cox, the 2008 winners of the Larry Snead Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Dave continued, "The Trail Steward program is the key to the Arizona Trail's success. Individuals building – then taking care of – the trail will help make this trail one of the premiere trails of the United States." Premiere trail ingredients include more stewards, more volunteer hours on the trail, more steward training, and the encouragement and implementation of new ideas and different approaches. One innovation for 2008 is the

Continued on page 4

The Arizona Trail Our Vision ...

a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing the State - nearly 807 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities and people

ATA Board of Directors

Scott Summers, President

Terry Woolson,
VP of Trail Operations

Kent Taylor, Treasurer

Lyn White, Secretary

Board Members at Large

Steve Anderson

Lisa Atkins

Bob Bohannan

Fred Gaudet

Jan Hancock

Wendy Hodgson

Gary Hohner,
Regional Steward - North

Emily Nottingham

Anna Pfender

Martin Schultz

Dale Shewalter

Robert Shuler

Russell Smoldon

Bernie Stalman,
Regional Steward - South

Eric Smith

Randy Warner

Wendy Erica Werden

Doug Whitneybell

OTHER PERSONNEL

Dave Hicks,
Executive Director

Helen Hill,
Membership Chairperson

Phyllis Ralley,
Administrative Mgr.

John Rendall,
Regional Steward - Central

David Babcock,
Web Master

Terri Gay,
Newsletter Editor

Dave's Arizona Trail Top Ten

From the ATA Executive Director executivedirector@aztrail.org

1. The ATA annual meeting held on February 2 was a fun event. The equestrian panel led by Jan Hancock gave the non-equestrians a great trail view that most hadn't seen. And Terry Roach with her high energy presentation had everybody moving and questioning how to properly sit, stand and walk. But it was great to hear one person say the best part of the event was to see and talk with old and new Arizona Trail friends. I agree.

2. You're the best! There were many accomplishments shared in the Annual Meeting program. Two accomplishments to be especially proud are the nearly 22,000 volunteer hours and 100 Arizona Trail work events in 2007. Thank you!

3. Don't Leave Home Without It. If you are considering getting on the Arizona Trail for a day or a week, please take a look at the ATA web page titled "Thru-Hikers Information Page." It has so much trail user information. Check it out!!

4. There's always something new. And please thank David Babcock and Phyllis Ralley for making the ATA web site (www.aztrail.org) such a useful and informative site. They have made many upgrades and additions to the site. And let them know of other additions or upgrades that might be possible.

5. Don't miss these ATA interpretive events (they are free too).

- Sonoran Desert Spring Beauties Along Alamo Canyon – March 15.

- What Are All Those Holes in the Ground and More – April 10 at Colossal Cave Mt Park.

Details, of course, are on the ATA web site.

6. New Arizona Trail construction in the Las Colinas passage of the Coronado National Forest is a model "can do" partnership of different interests working together on a common goal. Contact Bernie Stalman if you'd like to join them.

7. National Scenic Trail designation. I joined the American Hiking Society's "Hike the Hill" week in DC recently and visited Arizona's congressional offices. Please continue to voice your support for the Arizona National Scenic Trail bills (S1304 and HR2297). Here's a surprising fact: There hasn't been a new national scenic trail designation by Congress since 1983. And of the eight existing national scenic trails, only two are more complete, percentage-wise, than the Arizona Trail (which is now 94% complete). The AZT National Scenic Trail designation should be a "no-brainer."

8. Help Wanted – There's still a need for a general handyman/janitor, mostly at the ATA office, 1-2 hours weekly. Call me at 602-252-4794.

9. Arizona Trail Facts: 73% of the 807 mile Arizona Trail is within the Kaibab, Coconino, Tonto and Coronado National Forests. And those forests offer such diverse terrain and awesome areas. It is a pleasure to enjoy them.

10. Think Positive. For all of you working to make this wonderful long distance trail happen, keep in mind "The impossible missions are the only ones which succeed."
– Jacques Cousteau

Help Wanted

ATA Assistant Director Position - If you would like to put your fund raising and marketing skills to productive use, please send the ATA a letter or email (ata@aztrail.org) of interest. Include qualifications and compensation range.

Why We Build the Arizona Trail

by Tom Coulson

Life is busy and full of choices. Most of us have to prioritize what is most important, doing a balancing act between family time, jobs, friends and recreation. We know why these things are important but why would building the Arizona Trail be one of these priorities? Thousands of volunteer hours are spent each year to help get the trail built and keep it maintained for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and cross country skiers to enjoy.

Why do so many volunteers make time and devote labor to this project? Everyone has their own reasons but here are a few that volunteers have mentioned. Maybe these are also some of the reasons why YOU, too, are a volunteer to build the Arizona Trail.

The Dream:

Dale Shewalter articulated a dream of a border to border trail so people could enjoy the beauty of outdoor Arizona. The idea caught on and this dream is now shared by many enthusiastic people. And they are making the dream come true, one mile at a time!

Camaraderie: Many friendships have been made over the years, people sharing a passion with others who also love the trail. The sense of camaraderie is strong in this group as teams work together to complete the project. In the fall of 1987 there were 456 miles to go (original thought was that the trail would be 750 miles, now it looks more like 807). We are now down to only 51 miles of new tread left.

Legacy: Want to leave a positive mark with your life? Being a part of building the trail is something you and your kids and grandkids can share. Future generations will enjoy and benefit from our commitment to the Arizona Trail. It's a legacy to be proud of.

Enjoy the outdoors! See new areas, new views, more campfires and share these with family and friends. Make memories at work events.

Personal fulfillment: Satisfaction at "making a difference." Many times we have worked on new tread and found hikers on it the next day. It's always satisfying to find folks on the trail and many times they thank us for our efforts. It's always a good feeling to hike on trail you helped to build. The sense of contributing to our community is strong.

In the past 10 years we have taken the trail from about 436 miles to go, down to the last 51 to complete the trail. Volunteers, stewards, ATA staff and land managers have all worked together to GIT IT DONE and the goal is in sight!!



The Arizona Trail Legacy Partners

American Hiking Society

APS

Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation

Arizona State Parks

Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.

BLM

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold

National Bank of Arizona

Phelps Dodge

REI

Resolution Copper

SRP

Please let us know if you wish to receive your newsletter online. Save a tree, and see your newsletter in full color. You can even print it in color on your home computer printer! Just email ata@aztrail.org with your name and "online newsletter" as your subject line or call us at 602-252-4794.

Arizona Trail Association
PO Box 36736
Phoenix, Az 85067
(602) 252-4794
www.aztrail.org
ata@aztrail.org

Continued from page 1

14th Annual Members Meeting

introduction of regional chief trail steward positions for each of the northern, central and southern portions.

“Gotta have it done in 2011!” said Dave. It’s time to ramp up volunteers and community outreach, especially in Flagstaff, since the remaining passage around the Peaks still needs constructed. Dave proposes modeling this effort on that of the Las Cienegas corridor where 25 miles of trail were built in about three and a half years with outstanding community support in both dollars and labor. Grants and donations will make it possible to hire crews, giving the trail some efficient “professional help.”



Michael Anderson of Grand Canyon National Park accepts the 2008 Outstanding Agency Partner Award. ATA installed a gate into the South Rim passage in the Fall of 2007

Awards honoring our top trails people included the Jan Hancock Outstanding Volunteer Award going to the very deserving team of Laddie and Sue Cox of Tucson. Another hard working volunteer, Anna Pfender, earned the Larry Snead Trail Stewardship Award. Wendy Hodgson, coordinator of the ATA interpretive events, was presented the Outstanding Board Member honor. Outstanding Agency Partner

kudos went to Grand Canyon National Park, with Michael Anderson on hand to accept the award. This year a special 1000th Member Recognition went to Robert Jarvie, who helped the ATA reach that milestone for the first time in 2007, an increase in our membership of nearly 200 over the previous year.

“Too much seat time!” Dave Hicks then exclaimed, pulling everyone off the bench and on to their feet when he turned the microphone over to kinesiotherapist Terry Roach of Body Stabilization Training for a holistic look at the biomechanical problems trail users face. Terry demonstrated better ways of breathing, walking, bending and stepping. Her own injuries require her to be a living example of efficient, functional body movement. “If we breathe and walk wrong,” Terry warns, “then it’s like going to the gym and working out wrong.”

At “halftime,” all enjoyed a tasty lunch, followed by former ATA President and equestrian author Jan Hancock leading a panel of equestrians composed of Kelly Tighe, Spike Hicks, Diane Wertz, Janet and Dick Walsh and Denny Haywood in sharing their four-footed experiences on the AZT. (See page 5 for more on the panel’s comments.)

Happily, no overtime was needed for this meeting and all ATA fans went home winners, with that goal-line only 51 yards, er, miles away.



This year’s Larry Snead Trail Stewardship Award went to the 2007 Chief Trail Steward, Anna Pfender.



Outstanding Board Member of the Year was Wendy Hodgson, Senior Botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden, and designer of the Arizona Trail Interpretive Hike series.



Kinesiotherapist Terry Roach of Body Stabilization Inc. got everyone up and moving with her pre-lunch presentation about body mechanics.

We learned how to use our bodies correctly to not only hike, but drive, work on a computer and get in and out of a chair.

<http://www.bodystabilization.com>

Thanks to National Bank of Arizona for hosting us at their beautiful facility at 24th Street and Biltmore Circle in Phoenix.

Thanks to Bob Rink for the meeting photography.

The AZT from an Equine Point of View

by Terri Gay, ATA Newsletter Editor

A panel of experienced ATA equestrians spoke at the February 2008 ATA Annual Meeting, including Kelly Tighe (author of the first guidebook on the Arizona Trail, now out of print), Spike Hicks (Red Hills steward), Diane Wertz (Reavis Canyon steward, Kaibab Central steward), Janet and Dick Walsh (Coconino Rim steward) and Denny Haywood (Pine Mountain steward). Here's some of what they had to say:

What's it like to enjoy the AZT from the back of a mule or a horse?

Kelly Tighe: "It's a lot harder than if you're just hiking...very challenging because of your horse's food and water needs."

Spike Hicks: "A nice way to see the countryside. A lot of hikers are watching where they put their feet and not enjoying the view."

Diane Wertz: "You're there with an animal you enjoy and usually someone else you enjoy."

Dick Walsh: "When you get home, you put your backpack in a closet, whereas with horse, it's a commitment you make 24/7/365. And the view you see from between the ears of a mule is just incredible!"

Janet Walsh: "Other animals don't see or hear or smell you coming. And it's one thing to be prepared for the trail for yourself; it's another to be prepared with a horse."

Denny Haywood: "Their feet become an extension of mine. They get a runner's high, as do I. It's a spiritual experience."

How do you plan for food & water? Other tips for enjoyable rides?

Denny: "It means taking along 100% of feed, weed-free, with you. And stock can consume up to 5 gallons of water each a day. One of the challenges for the ATA is developing more of the water sources."

Dick Walsh: "It takes some planning, but having a support vehicle to carry that water is key."

Spike Hicks: "One of the good things is you CAN get a support vehicle in. That seems to work best for us."

Kelly Tighe: "Plan your trip during the rainy season. For the best information on areas, ask the ranchers. Carry a collapsible bucket to get access to hard-to-reach water."

Diane Wertz: "I recommend satellite phones. There are always times when you'll get in later than you think."

Memorable experiences?

Kelly Tighe: "I loved the section where it comes out Grand Canyon National Park where we came across a herd of buffalo that had run right through and destroyed a barbed wire fence."

Denny Haywood: "One of the first pack trips I was ever on in the Rincons, we get up to the top and the fellow pulled out frozen margarita mix that had thawed all day to the perfect consistency."

Janet Walsh: "I told Dick about the trail and his reaction was that he'd not be joining any group that lets bikes in, but what I came to find out was one of my favorite trips was to the IMBA meeting at the North Rim. We had a great time. It's about team building."

The audience learned just how big horses are, the size requirements for gates and pens, and how horses see and react. Hikers and bikers learned how and why to yield to horses on the Trail. "Speak to the horse when you approach, so it knows you are not a bear!"



Diane Wertz is currently riding the trail on her mule Billy. For equestrian information see her web site at: www.AZT-mules.blogspot.com

The Arizona Trail Business Members

Trail Guardian

AZ Partsmaster
Bookmans
Desert Botanical Garden
Rosemont Copper
Salt River Project
Summit Hut
Wells Fargo Bank
WhitneyBell Perry Inc

Trail Blazer

Camelback Hotel Corporation
Compass Bank
Jorden, Bischoff & Hiser, PLC

Trail Supporter

Aspen Sports
Carlson Homes
Endurance Rehabilitation
Hancock Resources LLC
Hatch Insurance Agency
Mr Printer
Outdoor Adventures Unlimited
Recreational Equipment Incorporated
Ridgeway Developers
Round Trip Bike Shop
Sportsman's Warehouse

Thank You!!!

Leave more than footprints

by Emily Nottingham,
ATA Board Member-at-Large

We've all seen the trailhead request sign—"take only memories, leave only footprints." This time I have a different request—I'd like you to ignore the sign, and leave more than footprints. I'd like you to consider leaving a bequest to the Arizona Trail in your will.

We all enjoy the trail, and want it to be protected far into the future. But I also know that a lot of us have retired, and don't have loads of disposable income to respond to all the charitable requests that come our way. One way to support the future of the trail without stretching your budget now is to leave a gift. So the next time you update your will consider asking your lawyer to add the Arizona Trail. Or consider gifting a portion of your retirement account.

To make it easy, we have added a bequest section to our website, so you don't have to do your own research. Look on the website under "Donate—planned giving." The Center for Planned Giving in Tucson, which is referenced on the website, is also able to advise you (520-545-1117).

Then, the next time you see that "footprints" sign, you can smile to yourself, knowing you have left behind something, and this time the trail steward will be most appreciative.

Welcome New & Returning Board Members

The board election results included new board members Anna Pfender and Bernie Stalman, (Regional Steward - South) being welcomed aboard, and congratulations to all other current board members who were re-elected:

Scott Summers, President	Lisa Atkins	Martin Schultz
Terry Woolson, VP of Trail Operations	Bob Bohannon	Dale Shewalter
Kent Taylor, Treasurer	Fred Gaudet	Robert Shuler
Lyn White, Secretary	Jan Hancock	Russell Smoldon
	Wendy Hodgson	Eric Smith
Board Members at Large	Gary Hohner, Regional Steward - North	Randy Warner
Steve Anderson	Emily Nottingham	Wendy Erica Werden
		Doug Whitneybell

Field Report: 15a - Tortilla Mountains Passage, Boulders Segment

By Anna Pfender, Segment Steward

February 16-17, 2008

We had a cold, wet and snowy start, but amazingly 20 brave souls slipped and slid their way down Freeman Road for what turned out to be a great weekend on the Arizona Trail. Those who arrived Friday were treated to 10 hours of nonstop rain followed by snow and sleet during the night with temperatures in the very low 30's. For those of us arriving Saturday morning, the rain and snow had ceased, but Freeman Road was the muddiest I've ever seen it. We got to work a bit later than planned, but our full crew dug right in under cloudy skies and temperatures in the 40's all day. We put in a full day of maintenance work nevertheless and the crew did a great job brushing and grubbing, repairing the tread and water erosion control devices (rocks) and installing some carsonite signs.

We followed up our workday with an excellent potluck style Happy Hour that quickly moved around the campfire with temperatures dropping fast, even though it was still an hour or so till dark. We enjoyed a marvelous selection of New Belgium's finest along with some of their nifty schwag for raffle prizes and then it was time to start preparing our spaghetti dinner. By that time, our fire was pretty big and pretty warm, too. After dinner Jerry Nash treated us to a terrific Dutch oven cherry cobbler! That certainly took the edge off, at least for a little while. When bedtime came I think we were all kind of reluctant to trade the warmth of the fire for ice covered tents and frosty sleeping bags.

Sunday morning brought even colder temperatures with a reading from Carl Babcock at 28 degrees. After getting the coffee on and chipping the ice out of the dogs' water bowl, we got our pancake and sausage breakfast going and huddled around the camp stoves and the restarted campfire for warmth. The clear weather that brought the colder night also brought a lovely day for trail work. We continued our maintenance work where we left off the day before and completed almost 2 miles of trail improvement for the weekend!

A hearty thanks to our volunteers who showed great courage and stepped up to the mud bog challenges: Carl and David Babcock, Dave Burkett, Shane Elliott, Bob Erickson, Jerry Fimbres, Mike and Sylvia Hallen, David Klein, Joe Longbotham, Marty McDonough, David Mills, Derek Mills, Jerry Nash, Tasha Nelson, Bill and Diane Ross, Charlie Smith, and Jim Spellman. I especially want to thank David Klein, David Mills and Jerry Nash for their help with the meals and the Babcocks for the use of their EZ-up and camp gear. It was truly a group effort and I couldn't have done it all alone. I can't forget our sponsors: The Arizona Trail Association, The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona and New Belgium Brewing Company. Thank you all!



*Bob Erickson foreground
Marty McDonough background*

Close the Gap - Help Finish the Trail!

San Francisco Peaks Project Launched

The years between Dale Shewalter's early scouting trip for a long-distance trail across the length of Arizona to the 94% complete Arizona Trail of 2008 tell an inspiring story. Everyone who has supported the Arizona Trail should be very proud of this great Arizona asset. Now the momentum and excitement are growing; there are only 51 unbuilt miles. We can "Close the Gap – Finish the Trail" before Arizona's 2012 centennial, with your help.

The longest gap is San Francisco Peaks Segment 34 (16 miles) near Mt. Humphreys in the Flagstaff area. The project to "Close the Gap" has been launched, and you can help.

Four special ATA work events are scheduled on the Peaks segment for this summer. Be a part of this great effort as Flagstaff area trail stewards join forces. Help move the AZT from 94% to 100% built. Every volunteer will be important. For reservations and questions, contact Gay or Gary Hohner at sgohner@cox.net or 480-595-9303. Save these dates for Peaks Segment work events:

June 28-29: Andrea & David Michaels, Gay and Gary Hohner

July 26: Flagstaff Biking Org. and Northern AZ Trail Runners

August 23: Doug Thomas, Carol Zazubek, Chambo and Bev Chambers

September 27: Paul Conn, Dorothy Boulton, Flagstaff Hiking Club

**See the Events Calendar on page 10. in this newsletter for more information.
Check www.aztrail.org for updates.**

**Read the latest news and trail conditions at
www.aztrail.org**

A long walk away from pain

Sirena Dufault, 34, is a vivacious woman with plans to walk the entire Arizona Trail. She walks with a mission greater than simply seeing if she can traverse the state; she'll raise funds for and awareness of the chronic pain of fibromyalgia, a condition from which she suffered after a being struck by a car as a college student at 23.

The pain she suffered after the accident forced her into bed, caused her to lose her job, and put her in a depression. Two months of such misery and Sirena decided to try short walks despite the pain. Those walks became hikes. Now, she's one of the few who have found a life relatively free of the pain of fibromyalgia. Her work as a massage therapist lets her aid others in pain, and her long walk will do even more to help.

She's already completed the first leg of the hike from the Mexican border to Parker Canyon Lake, and plans to be progressing on her travels by mid-March.

If you would like to follow Sirena's hike, check her blog at: www.aztrail4fms.org. To support the fundraising, send checks made out to National Fibromyalgia Association, with "Arizona Trail" in the memo, at Arizona Trail for Fibromyalgia, P.O. Box 89392, Tucson, AZ 85741. If you or your company is interested in becoming a sponsor of the Arizona Trail for Fibromyalgia, contact Sirena at (520) 440-6242.



Report from Reavis Canyon

Fourteen members and friends of the Superstition Horsemen's Association, steward group for the Reavis Canyon Passage 18A, drove in on FR 650 to the Whitford Canyon area and cleaned up all of the recent flood damage in the Canyon. The trail is now completely passable but has two areas where it must follow the creek bed for about 200 yards since the trail shelf below the rock wall has been completely washed away. They marked the areas with rock cairns. Other areas with debris were cleaned out and the trail was brushed out so that there is a 6 foot wide corridor open through the whole area.

www.aztrail4fms.org

New Interpretive Hikes for 2008!

Check out these new hikes we will be doing in 2008. We will also be offering additional interpretive events, so stay tuned – more information will be provided later on the Arizona Trail website and in the newsletter! As with all trips, pre-registration is required. Contact Wendy Hodgson (whodgson@dbg.org; 480-481-8108) unless otherwise noted in trip description. Bring hat, water, snacks, sun- screen; wear comfortable shoes.



Thursday, April 10, 2008

“What Are All Those Holes in the Ground – and More: Hiking with a Naturalist – Pinau Merlin, along the Arizona Trail from Colossal Cave Mountain Park”

Leader: Pinau Merlin

We are very pleased to offer a field trip with renowned naturalist and writer Pinau Merlin, author of many books including field guides to soaring birds of the West, southern Arizona nests and eggs, and hummingbirds of the West. And, have you ever wondered who makes all of those little (and big) holes we encounter as we hike along the desert landscape? Her *Field Guide to Desert Holes* will answer that and much more, a book so popular it is now in its fourth printing! Armed with an intense sense of curiosity and an amazing knack for describing and writing what she sees and knows, a walk with Pinau Merlin is a walk one does not soon forget. Her interest (and philosophy) in nature, including holes, reflects exactly what I believe: “the more you know about what you see, the more you come to appreciate the intricacies of life and the fantastic ways that animals (and plants!) have evolved to live in specific environments” (from an article by Valerie Young, “Turning a Love of Nature Into a Livelihood,” ChangingCourse.com). And from appreciation comes better stewardship – we take better care of our land and its inhabitants. Come join us and be prepared to have fun observing and learning desert mysteries. We’ll start at 8 a.m., meeting at the fee booth entrance to Colossal Cave Mountain Park.



Saturday, June 21, 2008

“Butterflies – Finding, Identifying and Photographing – Along the Arizona Trail” (near Washington Park, Mogollon Rim)

Leader: Marceline VandeWater (with Wendy Hodgson)

On Saturday, June 21, we will hike a part of the AZ/Highline trail in pursuit of colorful butterflies. As the temperature rises, the flowers start to bloom higher and higher in elevation. Butterflies follow this nectar flow “up the trail” and June is the perfect time to check them out. For example, bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) is an abundant plant along the trail that attracts the pretty Fritillaries. Orange milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and thistle (*Cirsium spp.*) are also popular amongst the nectar feeding butterflies. Other butterflies (like Blues) are more interested in mud-puddling at one of the three springs we will pass. Other butterflies, like California Sister and Weidemeyer’s Admiral, are mostly found on trees. Please wear sturdy shoes and a hat, bring water, snacks and a sack lunch. A pair of close focusing binoculars will be handy, too. The trail is moderately steep in places, but we will take our time.

Meeting place is Denny’s on Shea Blvd in Fountain Hills at 6:30 a.m. or at the trailhead at 8 a.m.

Directions to get to the trailhead: drive north to Payson, go straight at the Hwy 260 intersection. After 3/4 mile, turn right onto Houston Mesa Road. Cross all 3 “water crossings,” and after about 8 miles turn left at the stop sign. The road now turns into a dirt road. After about 2 miles turn right towards Shadow Rim Camp and Washington Park Trailhead. Follow this road up for about 6 miles until the right turn-off to the Washington Park Trailhead (marked). After a bit, turn left (signs again) and you will find the trailhead well marked.

Directions to get to the trailhead: drive north to Payson, go straight at the Hwy 260 intersection. After 3/4 mile, turn right onto Houston Mesa Road. Cross all 3 “water crossings,” and after about 8 miles turn left at the stop sign. The road now turns into a dirt road. After about 2 miles turn right towards Shadow Rim Camp and Washington Park Trailhead. Follow this road up for about 6 miles until the right turn-off to the Washington Park Trailhead (marked). After a bit, turn left (signs again) and you will find the trailhead well marked.

Contact Wendy Hodgson (whodgson@dbg.org or 480-481-8108) to register for this fun and informative trip to learn about our amazing butterflies.

Around the State, around the Country!



Neil Hornbeck represented ATA at the University of Scouting. It was designed for Scout leaders from around the valley and surrounding areas to take various classes related to Scouting. There were classes on Where to go Camping, Backpacking, Dutch Oven Cooking, Leave No Trace, Knots, Map & Compass to name a few. There were also classes on Advancement, Aquatic Activities, various scouting level training and more. An estimated 300-400 were in attendance.



When Richard Grodzicki started ordering denim shirts from the ATA store we thought he was starting his own trail association! It turned out he was taking them to friends at a reunion he attended in California.



Richard Grodzicki took this photo of a "trail runner" on the new section of the Las Colinas Passage.

February 16 Canelo Work Project Snowed Out!

by Richard Corbett

The best laid plans sometimes come to naught. The February 16 Canelo West work project was planned since last fall, but Nature intervened. We ended up canceling, as it would have been a REALLY wet, muddy slog, in a part of the Trail where there is more than a little clay--which tenaciously sticks to your work boots.

Thanks to Canelo East Steward Zay Hartigan for providing the early morning report of conditions. It was a bit of a scramble, but I was able to notify everyone except one person that we were canceling. The one person lives close by, so it was not as critical as those who would have traveled from over 60 miles from Tucson.

Special thanks to Jennifer Millard and her two friends, as well as Gordon Hunt, Quentin Lewton, and Larry Ratskywatsky, along with Zay Hartigan, for their willingness to help out.



Below left, Bernie Stalman's trail crew works in January on the Las Colinas section in the Santa Rita Mountains



The first gate installed on the new Las Colinas segment of the AZT. George Lopez and Laddie Cox replaced the lag screw hinges with the more adjustable lag bolt hanger hinges, brought the concrete of both the latch and hinge posts to above the soil level, added the chain-snap-link latch, hung the "close the gate" sign, and added the decals. They then went on down the ridge to the north and worked with Bernie Stalman's crew building trail for an hour or so. Think of them when you "close the gate!"

Calendar of Events on the Arizona Trail

April

April 19-20 - Buckskin Mountains

Come up to the top of the state for a general maintenance trip. Dinner served Saturday. Please bring your own meals and snacks for the trail as well as proper trail clothes and gear. Some hiking with tools will be likely. RSVP Mike Carr at michael.carr@nau.edu or call 928-779-4370 for details.

April 20 - Santa Rita Mountains

Brushing, tread rehab and general trail work are the goals for this season on this passage. The meeting place is the parking area at the I-10 and SR 83 interchange (Exit 281). Standard meeting time is 8 AM. The work lasts approximately 4 hours and travel time varies from 1.5 - 2 hours depending upon the location accessed. We usually return to town by 3:30 or 4. Please come suitably attired (sturdy shoes, thermally appropriate long pants, long sleeved shirt, wide-brimmed hat, gloves) and prepared (water, food, sunscreen, etc.).

If you plan to attend, an RSVP by email is required for the purpose of proper planning. There is a distribution list (new each season) for interested parties and reminders are sent out 1-2 weeks in advance. A simple Yes/No and a click on the "Reply" button to that email constitutes an RSVP.

If you'd like to join our distribution list and come out and enjoy the lovely Santa Rita Passage, please contact Stephen Wood at aztraildoc@yahoo.com.

please go to:

**www.aztrail.org
for last minute
changes and
more events**

May

May 10 - Canelo Hills West

Work west from Red Rock Road (4-WD) with segment steward Richard Corbett, to touch up single track that has had no recent maintenance. Have fun and fellowship with special treats. Long sleeves and pants protect you best, a wide brimmed hat likewise. Leather gloves a necessity. Please bring 3 to 4 liters of water, lunch and snacks. Please E-Mail Richard at kc7ovm@dakotacom.net if you can help, and to get meeting place and time.

May 18 - Santa Rita Mountains

Brushing, tread rehab and general trail work are the goals for this season on this passage. The meeting place is the parking area at the I-10 and SR 83 interchange (Exit 281). Standard meeting time is 8 AM. The work lasts approximately 4 hours and travel time varies from 1.5 - 2 hours depending upon the location accessed. We usually return to town by 3:30 or 4. Please come suitably attired (sturdy shoes, thermally appropriate long pants, long sleeved shirt, wide-brimmed hat, gloves) and prepared (water, food, sunscreen, etc.).

If you plan to attend, an RSVP by email is required for the purpose of proper planning. There is a distribution list (new each season) for interested parties and reminders are sent out 1-2 weeks in advance. A simple Yes/No and a click on the "Reply" button to that email constitutes an RSVP.

If you'd like to join our distribution list and come out and enjoy the lovely Santa Rita Passage, please contact Stephen Wood at aztraildoc@yahoo.com.

June

June 14-15 - Buckskin Mountains

Come up to the top of the state for a general maintenance trip. Dinner served Saturday. Please bring your

own meals and snacks for the trail as well as proper trail clothes and gear. Some hiking with tools will be likely. RSVP Mike Carr at michael.carr@nau.edu or call 928-779-4370 for details.

June 21 - Butterflies along the Arizona Trail

Come up to Washington Park near the Mogollon Rim for this fun and informative trip to learn about butterflies. For more information, see article on page 8 or visit www.aztrail.org.

June 28-29 - San Francisco Peaks

The longest unbuilt gap—16 miles—on the Arizona Trail is San Francisco Peaks Segment 34 near Mt. Humphreys in the Flagstaff area. The project to close this gap has been launched; this summer ATA will sponsor four special events on the Peaks Segment. Be a part of this great effort as Flagstaff area trail stewards join forces the fourth weekends of June, July, August and September. "Close the Gap" and help "Finish the Trail!" Every volunteer will be important.

We will work out of the Snowbowl parking lot. No experience necessary. Experienced crew leaders. Bring friends and family; make your reservations now! There will be something for everyone to do. Tools, Saturday lunch, and prizes provided. Porta-potty available. Options: plenty of room for RV's and campers. May camp Friday and Saturday. May work Saturday or Sunday or both.

More information on schedule, location and what to bring will be provided when you make your reservation. You will have a great time, and your volunteer work can make an important contribution to complete the Arizona Trail. For reservations and questions, contact Gay or Gary Hohner: sghohner@cox.net or 480-595-9303.



Arizona Trail Association
PO Box 36736
Phoenix, Az 85067

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PHOENIX, AZ
 PERMIT NO. 3855

Become an Arizona Trail Member - Build a Legacy!

The Arizona Trail Association needs your active support. Help build the ARIZONA TRAIL as a resource for today and preserve it as a legacy for future generations.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Trail Helper \$30
- Trail Hand \$50
- Trail Builder \$100
- Trail Blazer \$500
- Trail Guardian \$1000

New Membership Renewal
 Please save paper and deliver my newsletter online.

Gift Membership from:

Membership forms and dues payment also available online:
www.aztrail.org
 The Arizona Trail Association is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization

 NAME

 ADDRESS

 CITY STATE ZIP CODE

 PHONE

 E-MAIL ADDRESS

We do not share our member information!

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
 _____ Contribution for new trail development \$ _____
 _____ "My Mile" Contribution (\$100/mile) \$ _____

What are you primary non-motorized trail activities?
 _____ hiking _____ biking _____ horseback riding
 other: _____

Make check payable to Arizona Trail Association (ATA)
 Mail to: Arizona Trail Association
 PO Box 36736
 Phoenix, AZ 85067