

Arizona Trail

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

NEWS



Fun and Family: Arizona Trail Connections

Arizona Trail lovers convened on February 7, 2009, to elect officers for the coming year and celebrate progress in building and maintaining the trail. With the official business taken care of and the organization's accomplishments for the year summarized, several awards were bestowed:

- 2009 Agency Partner Award:

Connie Lane, Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District, for consistently and enthusiastically aiding the trail in her district

- 2009 Jan Hancock

Outstanding Volunteer Award: **Dick and Diane Wertz** who epitomize truly outstanding volunteers

- 2009 ATA Board Member

Award: **Gary Hohner** for his coalition building in Flagstaff and progress in "Closing the Gap" in the San Francisco Peaks segment

- 2009 Larry Snead Trail Stewardship Awards: **Lee**

Allen, Fred Gaudet and Mike Carr all provided leadership to expertly build and maintain some difficult miles of trail.



*Connie Lane
2009 Outstanding Agency
Partner Award recipient.
Photo: Bob Rink*

dirt to build and maintain our trail. Backed by a soundtrack of oldies, or classics, depending on your personal definition, Grodzo's tribute to the "dirt diggers" treated us to a photo album of the fauna, flora and most importantly, the faces of our friends who, as Grodzo says, "build trails by people for people."



David Salisbury, president of Resolution Copper Company, talks trails with Lattie Coor, former president of Arizona State University. Photo: Bob Rink

It's All About the People

So much of the Arizona Trail offers visual delights both grand and small, and this meeting featured two entertaining presentations filled with fun and scenic photos.

"Grodzo" (Richard) Grodzicki honored all who shovel

The Lure of the Long Distance Trail

Lattie Coor, former president of Arizona State University, recounted in photos and narrative, his and his wife Elva's two-year long adventure along the Arizona Trail that started in 2005. The Coors, long-time hikers, met a through-hiker on the John Muir Trail in the Sierras, and thus *Continued on page 4*

Help Wanted: calling all volunteers

School Outreach & Speakers

(Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff areas) - Local AZT aficionados are needed to reach out to local schools to give Arizona Trail talks to school children.

Contact the ATA office at 602-252-4794

Arizona Trail Promotion

Volunteers are needed to represent and promote the AZT by staffing tables and booth at various events.

Speakers are needed to give short AZT presentations at small and large gatherings. Contact Anna Pfender if interested in either activity mtbbabe@cox.net

Writer/Editor

The 2004 guidebook "Official Guide to the Arizona Trail" needs to be thoroughly reviewed and updated. An editor lead person is needed to coordinate the effort of editing and rewriting many sections of the book.

Contact Dave Hicks executivedirector@aztrail.org

Janitor

The Phoenix ATA office needs someone for one to two hours a week to maintain the office.

Contact the ATA office at 602-252-4794 or ara@aztrail.org.

The Arizona Trail Our Vision ...

... a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing the State - nearly 817 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities and people

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Dave's Arizona Trail Top Ten

From the ATA Executive Director executivedirector@aztrail.org

Arizona National Scenic Trail

From a fifth grade schoolteacher's vision of an across Arizona path to a National Scenic Trail in just over twenty years. Wow! I'll bet Dale Shewalter never envisioned that. Hopefully sometime this year, the 817-mile Arizona Trail (AZT) will receive Congressional ratification as a National Scenic Trail (NST). NST designation is a very, very significant milestone for the Arizona Trail.

The 1968 National Scenic Trail Act has some very key wording that really fits the Arizona Trail. The Act states:

Trails are "to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation"; trails should be "established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation which are often more remotely located"; and Congress "recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation's trails."

That sure describes the Arizona Trail, doesn't it? And if the Act had included a photo of a scenic trail, I can think of about 817 places along the AZT that would have been perfect.

What does NST designation do?

NST designation recognizes premier long distance trails. It provides national, prestige, protection and strength. But it does not come with a pot full of federal funds.

The NST designation provides worldwide recognition to one more attraction in a state with many beautiful outdoor features. Many are taken for granted, but spend a few days on the awesome AZT and you will appreciate the outdoor diversity of Arizona so much more.

And in a rapidly growing state, designation will help protect the trail from being overlooked as growth encroaches. While the route may change, the AZT is here to stay.

NST designation also adds more strength to the model partnership that has worked successfully to develop the Arizona Trail. The AZT has happened because of the cooperation and teamwork of many, many individual volunteers, Arizona state government, national forests, national parks, Bureau of Land Management, county and city governments and the Arizona congressional delegation. While it doesn't own a single foot of trail, the nonprofit Arizona Trail Association has successfully led the coordination of those entities and volunteers. NST designation is a powerful asset to that partnership.

Also, NST designation will not significantly change the way the AZT is managed. The trail will still rely on the successful partnerships described above to complete the final miles and maintain the entire trail. And contrary to what many think, no federal dollars automatically come to scenic trails, thus the continued time and financial support of every supporter will be crucial. Actually, even more supporters will be necessary as we strive to complete the final miles and then take on the forever task of maintaining the entire AZT in a first class condition.

Finally, my first draft of this article included many of the difficult hurdles and obstacles the AZT has faced. Take my word for it, there have been and will be many. Suffice to say each has and will be addressed. NST designation has not been easy either. As obstacles became known, several times I requested that ATA members and supporters to contact their Congressional representative. You always delivered. You were heard and made a difference. The Arizona Trail being recognized as a National Scenic Trail will be a tribute to you and all of the trail's partners. Thank you. You earned it!

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.

Ten Years, Two Views

by Barbara Zinn

Barbara Zinn hiked the Arizona Trail in 1998 in its then rough-cut form. She hiked it again in 2008. She was kind enough to share these thoughts when asked to give us a unique look at two very different hikes.

More Complete, More Info, More Burns

I'm ten years older! So I hiked a little slower. The trail is almost complete, where in 1998 there were about 200 miles not done. I walked entirely different routes. Lots more information is easily available about it now, almost information overload! Much of the new construction since 1998 is glorious! (Thanks, all.)



Big fires have roared through many miles since 1998, giving very different conditions. The good news is that the views, always amazing, have expanded as the trees burnt. This is a trail of almost continuous and superlative views!!! The bad news is hiking conditions through the burns are generally not so good, and through the Willow fire are especially daunting.

My first thru-hike, north to south, was in the fall of 1998. It took 51 days to complete, with one

day off. The second was a flip-flop in the fall of 2008. This time I started on the Utah line and hiked south to the Roosevelt bridge, then hiked from Mexico north to the bridge. It took me 56 days including two days off. The switch to a flip-flop was partly for a change and partly to avoid any late fall weather in the southern heights.

In 1998 I got into an extreme storm in the Rincons in early November that nearly killed me.

*but it's just one step
in front of the next,
over and over*

Why Hike a Long Hike?

Although I've been backpacking most of my life, the 1998 hike was my first really long one, and such long hikes have become a passion for me. In the intervening ten years, I have designed and completed five more long "lines" across the southwest. In every one of these, including the two Arizona Trail hikes, what is most memorable is the freedom of being out and immersed in the wilds for such a long time.

When I "discovered" the trail while staffing Grandview fire look out in 1996, it was a no-brainer to decide to do it! I then spent two full years gathering information and preparing. It wasn't as easy then, as now, to get ready.

One looks at 800 miles and thinks, "too far, I could never pull that off." This is true of long trails in general, I suppose, but it's just one step in front of the next, over and over. When all one has to do each day is walk from dawn to dusk, it's amazing (and empowering) so see how far one goes in a short time.

Unprecedented Terrain and Challenges

Arizona has very distinctive terrain found nowhere else, especially the Grand Canyon. Much of the flora and fauna of the southern sky islands is found only in bits of southern New Mexico and in Mexico. The ability to traverse such unusual and diverse country in 800 miles is unprecedented on any

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The Arizona Trail Legacy Partners

APS

Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation

Arizona State Parks

BLM

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold

National Bank of Arizona

Resolution Copper

Rosemont Copper

SRP

Arizona Trail Association

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14th Annual Members Meeting

You can help the Arizona Trail earn \$50,000 Grant

The Arizona Trail has just learned it is one of five national finalists in the Redwood Creek Wines Greater Outdoors Project. The Arizona Trail Association's proposal for linking the Las Cienegas segment with the Rincon Mountains segment via a five mile trail addition within Saguaro National Park was selected to compete for the \$50,000 grant.

The selection of a final winner of the grant requires project supporters to email and text message votes for their pet project in to Redwood Creek. These emails and text messages may be sent each day from April 1, 2009 to May 31, 2009. Everyone can have two votes a day, one via email and one via text message. Mark your calendars, tell your friends and hiking club buddies, tell everyone you know to send in their votes!

The proposed five mile trail will route trail users away from Rincon Creek. Considered a sensitive area,

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was planted the desire to do a long distance trail.

Connecting Family

The family's history of ranching dating back to 1895 colored their entire Arizona Trail trip, giving the Coors the chance to ride, bike and hike from ranch to ranch, including Hardscrabble, Milk Point, Mahan and Apache Maid. Many friends and family members, including granddaughters, joined the adventure at different times. It was "a family experience beyond what we could have imagined," said Coor. Elva added, "You all created a trail that took us to the best views and made alive something very special to our families."

"We thought we'd bonded with Arizona; this trip truly bonded us." Coor continued, "It's a connection to the living past, our family history. An absolutely extraordinary experience."



Alison Laramee of the Coconino Rural Environment Corps and Josh Burt from the Southwest Conservation Corps enjoy the 2009 ATA annual meeting. Photo: Terri Gay



Larry Snead Trail Stewardship Award winners and Regional Trail Stewards, from left, Gary Horner, Mike Carr, Fred Gaudet, Lee Allen, Bernie Stalman and Jonh Rendall. Photo: Bob Rink

All in attendance seemed to agree with Lattie and Grodzo's assessments of the power of the trail. The friends, the fun, the connections we make from the trail are perhaps the greatest rewards of involvement with the Arizona Trail Association. We're all partners in the success of this long pathway in this challenging year ahead, and as executive director Dave Hicks says, "We're going to rely on our partners, and that's you."

Arizona Trail Association wishes to extend special thanks to our numerous business and organization supporters.

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
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Arizona Trail "Pocket Maps" Available on CD

The most concise map set available to date, the Arizona Trail Pocket Maps show the trail route, elevation profiles, water sources, trailheads, camping areas and nearby amenities and resources. These features are keyed to a legend for easy reference.

The set of sixteen individual PDF files on a single CD can be printed in color in various sizes using a standard inkjet or laser printer. They fold so they fit easily in a shirt pocket. Both the completed trail and the planned/under-construction sections are included.

ATA volunteers Mike Headrick, Dave Hicks, Phyllis Ralley, Fred Gaudet, Terry Woolston and David Babcock contributed to this immense project.

Although the maps are carefully researched and contain a great deal of information, they should be used together with other trail resources and planning tools.

To purchase your CD, visit the ATA site at www.aztrail.org and click the "Shop" tab. The CD is \$15, plus \$4 shipping.



Mechanical trail machine makes progress on a rocky section in the White Canyon segment now under construction. Photo: Fred Gaudet

Don't Pay Extra Taxes

Here's a way for a few of you to avoid paying taxes on your IRA funds.

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to direct up to \$100,000 of your IRA funds to qualified charities like the Arizona Trail Association, and avoid paying taxes on those funds.

Lisa Groves, Senior Advancement Officer (602-682-2069 or lgroves@azfoundation.org) at the Arizona Community Foundation in Phoenix or Lori Hoby, Executive Director (520-545-1117 or lhoby@cfsoaz.org) at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona in Tucson are happy to explain, advise and assist.

P.S. This tax feature is due to expire in 2009.

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.

Work Reports

December 3-10, Mormon Grove

Nine members of the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) worked December 3, 2008 to Wednesday, December 10, 2008 doing great work in maintaining much of the Arizona Trail near Mormon Grove in the Saddle Mountain area.

The crew was staffed by Kyle Williams (Crew Leader), Judy Tincher (Assistant Crew Leader), Emily Barrett, Lucy Cohen, Dave Hibbard-Rode, Rob Langfield, Greg Lenard, Chaz Perry, and Laren Schmacher. The crew rebuilt tread and repaired a severely eroded stretch of the trail, cleared the heavily overgrown trail corridor and built carins.

Jeff Haught, the owner of the Cross F Ranch near Sunflower was so pleased with the crew's work that he donated steaks for a meal for the crew.

The coordination for and the employment of the crew was through the efforts of Annie McVay of the Arizona State Parks, Allison Laramee of CREC, Debbie Becker of the Tonto National Forest, and of Laddie Cox, the Arizona Trail Association's Hit and Run Crew Leader.



Coconino Rural Environment Corps crew members sweat and saw through blowdown in the Mazatzals. Photo: Laddie Cox

Submitted by Laddie Cox

October 21-29, Four Peaks

Zay Hartigan with his three horses, along with John Rendall, Laddie Cox, and Annette Smits of the Tonto Basin Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest met at the Mill's Ridge trailhead in Passage 20, Four Peaks Segment of the AZT on October 21, 2008. Annette brought about 100 gallons of water in packable containers. Zay and Laddie set up camp, then John, Zay, and Laddie worked up the trail, clearing cat-claw.

Zay and Laddie spent the night there and early the next morning Zay and his horses packed in 40 gallons of water to Granite Springs, while Laddie awaited Annette's arrival with the crew from the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps (CREC). The CREC Crew, which consisted of Mike Murphy (Crew Leader), Eli Allan, Natasha Dobias, Kris Menger, Maura Cassell, Ricky Little, Jen Tucker, and Madison Daniels. They arrived about the time Zay returned from his first trip. After helping Zay load out the second time with tools and more water, the crew, Annette and Laddie "saddled" up themselves and hiked to the camp site a little southeast of Granite Springs.

The next day Zay brought in more water and the crew started work building cairns and energetically clearing the heavily over-grown trail corridor north toward Pigeon Springs. For the next six days the crew worked hard and did a great job of clearing the trail. On the eighth day, the crew worked to the southeast to the Four Peaks Wilderness boundary and then packed out their tools and gear.

Thanks to this hard working crew, use of our AZT through this portion will be much more enjoyable.



Zay Hartigan ready to pack in gear and supplies for a Coconino Rural Environment Corps work crew in a remote section of the Four Peaks segment. Photo: Laddie Cox

Submitted by Laddie Cox

Ten Years, Two Views

when it is bad, it is very, very bad. One is constantly moving from mountain to desert and back again, so one must be prepared for a bit of everything. Water is more of an issue on this trail than on any other.

Be Prepared

Prepare, pay attention, be ready for anything. There's an amazing amount of information available now about trail conditions compared with 1998. But once you've studied up, don't get complacent and count on it! Things change fast out there; have a backup plan, especially about water. As mentioned before, be very, very careful about potential bad weather. And expect the worst in the burns. Especially in central Arizona, the rugged chaparral country tries its best to over-grow, burn up, and erode out the trail almost as fast as it is built!

The Next Adventure

I'm a career fire lookout, currently working for the San Juan National Forest. My husband and I make our home in Moab, Utah, and I spend part of my off-season hiking in Arizona. My next long hike will be this fall when I will hike the Grand Enchantment Trail from Albuquerque to Phoenix. It goes past loads of fire lookouts (my other passion) and right through Langmuir Labs, where I studied lightning while attending graduate school. And it follows a lot of the nicest desert parts of the Arizona Trail, too!

See the related article by Barbara's friend, Jean Rukkila, on page eight.

2008 Was A Very Good Year

- At the end of 2008, it is now estimated that the Arizona Trail is 817 miles in length. And only 40 miles are remaining to be built. ATA members and partners are diligently pursuing those last 40 miles. The goal of completing the AZT by the 2012 Arizona Centennial is a possibility.
- Across the state, volunteers and land managers continued their work on the AZT. In 2008 there were 113 trail work events and over 22,411 volunteer hours. Thank you stewards, volunteers and sponsors.
- The ATA welcomed several new trail stewards in 2008: Ike Shipman (Right of Passage); Jim Strickler (Saddlebrooke Hiking Club); Blair McLaughlin (Sierra Club); Bev and Chambo Chambers; Coconino Rural Conservation Corp (CREC); Paul Conn; Dorothy Boulton; Bruce Belman; and Lee Allen. Thank you for taking responsibility.
- To aid AZT users, in 2008 the ATA released 16 section maps of the Arizona Trail. Those maps, now available on a CD, include valuable information like water, nearby services, trailhead information and elevation profiles.
- The ATA web site continued to provide more trail user information and assistance with the early 2008 debut of the "Thru Hikes Information Sources" webpage and the free downloadable "Arizona Trail Data Book" webpage.
- At year end, the ATA had 880 individual members, 23 My Mile Members, and 44 generous businesses, clubs and foundations.

www.aztrail.org

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Thank You!!!

We're Truly an Arizona Trail!

At the end of February there were 945 individual members. Our members live in 34 different states plus one in Germany and two in Canada. California leads the way with 22 followed by Colorado; Texas and, surprisingly, Minnesota are tied. Non-Arizona addresses comprise about 12% of the ATA's membership.

Members from Arizona have 99 different community addresses. They come from:

Arivaca,
Tubac
McNeal
Yuma
Page
Bagdad
Dolan Springs
Parks ...to name a few.

16 Arizona communities have 10 or more ATA members:

Apache Junction	14
Flagstaff	89
Chandler	13
Gilbert	11
Glendale	14
Green Valley	13
Mesa	40
Payson	10
Peoria	12
Phoenix	141
Prescott	10
Scottsdale	59
Sun City & Sun City West	10
Tempe	28
Tucson	164
Vail	14

Yep, community-spirited Tucson, with just over a third of Phoenix's population, has the most ATA members. And Arizona's 13th largest city Flagstaff is 3rd in ATA members. Scottsdale and Mesa are looking pretty good too. I think the very good Scottsdale and Flagstaff numbers are the result of the great groundwork this past year by Gay Hohner.

POSTCARDS TO A WALKING WOMAN

... *Wishing I Was There*

By Jean Rukkila



On day thirteen of her walk from Utah, after following the Arizona Trail on the North Rim, crossing the Grand Canyon, tarrying with friends on the South Rim, striding out across the Babbitt Ranch, then climbing through aspens on the Peaks, a friend of mine came across a phone at the Snow Bowl. While I chewed a French dip sandwich at the Weatherford Hotel, I felt a buzzing in my pocket and it was BZ wondering if I'd be home the next day; she thought she'd stop by sometime in the afternoon.

"I'm two days ahead," she said.

After we talked, I looked at my Xerox copy of the itinerary she'd left with her husband. Her neat even handwriting names the places and food caches she's linking with sixty days of walking: Russell Tank, White Horse Hills, Jack's Canyon. Temporal Gulch, Italian Trap. A feast of Arizona names.

Overnight the planet pulled a blanket of clouds snug up against the shoulders of the Peaks. I pictured her waking up along the Kachina Trail with her dreams full of elk hoots. "Anybody home?" she said that afternoon.

She'd picked up a leg of turkey from the Bashas. (I liked thinking of her in the vegetable aisle with a pack on.) I put it into a clay pot to cook with yams and carrots while she enjoyed a hot shower and we ate salad and talked easily of trails and fire seasons, friends and books. The paperbacks she carried had the covers torn off to save weight.

Ten years ago when she walked the entire Arizona Trail the first time I left poetry on the backs of postcards for her to find along the way. I attached them to trail signs with bright surveyor's ribbon so she wouldn't miss them. Here's one:

The moon noticed a woman's walking behavior and sent major e-mail to all the plant people: smile as she goes by. Whisper your thanks for the gentle sound

of feet on the planet. The dusk crooned a lullaby so that she might enter the dark unafraid: somewhere tucked into the folds and wrinkles of the varied landscape, there'd be just the right manger for her dreaming. Scorpio chased the stinging insects away and Orion bent down to tuck her in each midnight. Stars fell without making their usual splashing sound. "Sleep," they whispered.

With ample arrows on duct tape I posted greetings to her musings and solitude along 807 miles of trail. Here are words I put on the inside of a culvert where the trail passes under Highway 83 before turning toward Mt. Wrightson:

It took centuries for the scientists to understand what the walkers knew by the wisdom of their toes. Clouds depend on the paths on the planet for inspiration. Faced with coming up with detail, design, playful puffery, the gathering water molecules examine the trails—how feet seek exploration, how eyes follow pattern—then the great breath of becomingness circulates across ridges and through gaps and launches upward and clouds become clouds. Shadows, too, gain something from the walkers below. The way thoughts rise and fall through a day's pace on foot, how tangled "musts" become the eased hum of enoughness; just this way, clouds understand that a life must take shape, and then they paint shadows on the landscape to stroke Walking Woman with cool hands.

It's ten years later, and BZ walks again. Each morning until mid November, I'll imagine her out there waking up to another day on foot. I didn't leave her poems this time, but I wrote a column about her and maybe I'll cut it out of the newspaper and send it down to Patagonia, where a friend can tape it to an ammo can of food near a long trail. I hope she reads it and is amused.

"Some people write poetry," she told me last week. "I walk."

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