

Arizona Trail

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

NEWS



Dale Shewalter Arizona Schoolteacher with an 800-Mile Shadow

by Randy Warner

As most readers of this newsletter know, the Arizona Trail lost its founder, Dale Shewalter, on January 10, 2010. Dale died after a long and determined battle with cancer, and after more than 25 years of working to make real his dream of an Arizona Trail.

Born in Illinois, Dale came to Arizona after serving in the Marines in Vietnam. He was a geologist, an avid hiker and horseman, but most of all a teacher for the Flagstaff Unified School District. At some point, these vocations and avocations coalesced into a crazy idea. Why shouldn't there be a hiking, biking and equestrian trail that crosses the entire state of Arizona?

"The idea's not new," Dale said in an October 1985 article in the *Prescott Courier* newspaper. "A lot of people have thought about the trail before and other people have walked the length of the state."

To scout the route, Dale walked from Nogales to the Utah border, averaging just over 25 miles a day. He gathered much of the intelligence he would later use to promote the Arizona Trail. Soon after, he began traveling the state, hawking the idea of an Arizona Trail to state and federal agencies, outdoor enthusiasts, and anyone else who would listen.

The project began to snowball. Eric Smith heard Dale speak about the Arizona Trail at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in 1987 and was hooked. "While Dale enjoyed presenting his idea and vision," Smith recalls, "he also made everyone feel welcome about joining the effort. He knew that it would take many people, and a very long time to succeed in such an effort."

In 1988, Dale took a year-long leave from teaching to work on the Arizona Trail, and became the first Arizona Trail Steward. The same year, the first seven miles of the Arizona Trail were dedicated on the Kaibab Plateau.

By the early 1990's, the development of the Trail was in full swing. Through Dale's efforts—and those of other individuals and agencies too many to name—the necessary partnerships and relationships were in



Dale Shewalter looks down over the Mazatzals from General Springs as he dreams of a trail that would cross Arizona. Photo: Arizona State Parks

place to make Dale's dream of a border-to-border trail a reality. An Intergovernmental Agreement by state and federal agencies provided financial and other support for the Arizona Trail project. But one piece of the puzzle remained.

He remained the inspiration for a growing group of people committed to seeing the Arizona Trail to completion and beyond

In 1994, the Arizona Trail Association was established. Dale was on the first Board of Directors, served as President for a time, and

was a board member for the rest of his life. But more than that, he remained the inspiration for a growing group of people committed to seeing the Arizona Trail to completion and beyond. His messages at the ATA's annual meetings left people energized. He continued to set an example by doing everything from trail building to relationship building.

Dave Hicks, current Executive Director of the ATA, was one of those whom Dale inspired. He met Dale at a work event in 2001, when Dale sought him out to talk about Hicks' experiences as a through-hiker. "I was flattered that he took the time to talk," Hicks says. "He was the real deal. No fluff. And a person genuinely interested in other people, especially Arizona Trail hikers."

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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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A Message from the ATA President

Emily Nottingham

I admit I thought twice about it—did I really want to ask my friends and relatives to vote for the Arizona Trail in the Redwood Creek Winery contest? Would my friends think I was pushing this friendship? After all, I asked them last year. They faithfully (or occasionally, depending on the friend) remembered to log on and vote for the Arizona Trail. It all came to naught last year, as we finished second.

However, since I know how much the ATA could use the money to build trail and trailheads, I overcame my reluctance to ask another favor, and sent out emails asking friends and relatives to once again vote for the Arizona Trail between April and August. Once a day, online, takes less than a minute (I timed it.) We are competing with nine other outdoor non-profits. Whoever gets the most votes wins \$50,000. The nine runners up win \$10,000 for being finalists among over a hundred applicants.

And do you know what? Everyone I asked was fine with it. My friends and relatives (and me) are doing their best to remember to vote once a day for the Arizona Trail. So now I am letting you know it's OK—you too can ask your friends and relatives. And, if they are as nice as mine, they will be happy to help.

Once a day, between now and August 31, vote. We were ahead after the first weekend. This could be our year. At the very least, are you remembering to vote? Online, at www.blazethetrail/greatoutdoors/

Thank you. Emily

Bernie Stalman says "Adios," Retires as Regional Trail Steward



Damascus, VA to the Killington, VT area but mostly in the Shenandoah National Park. I started here in October 2004 and have had a blast working with all of you and others on the AZT in quite a few locations. But every good thing comes to an end and I want to spend more time with Margie traveling, hiking, and best of all having fun with two grandsons."

"My last day as a regional steward will be June 30, 2010. I added the year as I know someone will assume that it is next year or later. This doesn't mean that I will not show up to do work events. That part of me is still alive and well. I just want to be able to choose the when."

"To all of you that have been segment stewards forever or just for the recent past, many thanks for doing this."

"Continue to do well and keep the AZT as an important part of Arizona's outdoor life and enjoyment."

From Bernie:

"This month marks my 13th year of doing trail work and it has been a lot of fun and worthwhile. I spent almost eight years working on the Appalachian Trail from outside of

Continued from page 1

800- Mile Shadow

In 2009, Congress named the Arizona Trail a National Scenic Trail. As usual, Dale's response was not to take credit, but to give thanks. He wrote: "I am personally grateful for all of the devoted people who have worked so hard to bring National Scenic Trail status to our Arizona Trail."

The astonishing thing about Dale Shewalter was not that he had a great idea. It was not that he hiked the length of Arizona to map the Trail's route. It wasn't that that he was a great salesman, managing to get so many people, organizations and government agencies to buy in. It wasn't that he was an inspirational teacher for so many while remaining an inspirational leader for the Arizona Trail Association. It was that he was all these things.

ATA president Emily Nottingham described it this way: "Lots of people have good ideas, but few have the commitment, vision and persistence to turn them into reality. Few people understand how complex a long distance trail can be to put together, but Dale, even understanding the challenges, did it."

Dale leaves us with fond memories, certainly inspiration, but more than anything the challenge of completing and preserving the Arizona Trail.

**You can read
more about Dale
Shewalter at
[www.aztrail.org/
dale.html](http://www.aztrail.org/dale.html)**

**If you have a
story about Dale
please submit it to
[remembrances@
aztrail.org](mailto:remembrances@aztrail.org)**

**We are trying to
build a collection
of Dale's stories
and the stories of
the many, many
people he inspired
and affected.**



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ATA Annual Meeting at Biosphere II



The ATA 2010 annual meeting attracted a full house at Biosphere II. Notable moments included a remembrance of Dale Shewalter by Randy Warner and Zane Shewalter, and Bart Smith's spectacular photo presentation of his rigorous treks on all eleven National Scenic Trails.

Outstanding Awards for 2009
Board Member of the Year
Anna Pfender

Outstanding Agency Partner
Zac Ribbing and Rachel Hohl
– Coronado National Forest-

Larry Snead Trail Stewardship Award
Lou Hoover; Richard Kane; Jim Strickler

Jan Hancock Volunteer Award
Gay Hohner; Tom Kimmel; Joe Longbotham



Lauren Hohl and Zac Ribbing of the National Forest Service received Agency Partner recognition for their work on the Arizona Trail.

www.aztrail.org

Read the latest updates and see the Calendar for all upcoming work events and special events on the Arizona National Scenic Trail

Please support our Business Partners

Did you know ATA has three insurance Business Partners? When you need insurance, call one of these generous trail supporters:
In Tucson: Allstate—Max, 520-887-6210 and/or State Farm—Rick, 520-888-7608
In Phoenix, Hatch Insurance—Garett, 602-995-5692.

Need some physical therapy after being on the AZT? Here are two ATA supporters: Endurance Rehabilitation (www.endurancerehab.com) and Body Stabilization Training (www.bodystabilization.com)

And when you are traveling, don't forget the Best Western Pony Soldier Inn and Suites in Flagstaff and the Inn Suites Hotels with locations around the state.

The Arizona Trail Legacy Partners

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Trail Champion Profile: Richard Kane

by Laddie Cox



Richard Kane has certainly earned the status of a premier leader in the construction and maintenance of a significant portion of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (ANST). He is a long-standing member of both the Southern Arizona Hiking Club and Arizona Trail Association. His trail work benefited many trails including those in the Safford and Santa Catalina Ranger districts of the Coronado National Forest.

Since the '90s, Richard has led countless work events on our ANST. He and his companions have also worked hard to maintain the remote and especially difficult portions of the trail running from the Forest Service/Saguaro National Park East boundary through the Italian Trap trailhead, and from Molino Basin to Dan's Saddle on Oracle Ridge.

Richard, the members of the Arizona Trail Association thank you so very much for all your years of hard work on the Arizona Trail.

Where ATA Members Are From

Arizona Trail Association members come from 37 different states, primarily, of course, from Arizona where 85% reside. California has the second most and Colorado the third most ATA members. There are members living in four other countries: Spain, Germany, United Kingdom and Canada. Arizona members list 99 different communities as their home address with Tucson leading the pack.

But how many of these ATA member communities can you place on the map? Amado; Arivaca; Bagdad; Belmont; Cochise; Cornville; Corona; Dolan Springs; Dagoon; Fort Defiance; Picacho; Portal; Wilhoit and Yucca. And, of course, everyone knows where these communities are: Ajo; Catalina; Clarkdale; Huachuca City; Hereford; Lakeside; Rio Verde; Snowflake; Tonto Basin; and Winkelman—right?

—From the membership roll as of February 28, 2010

Just one click, once a day, can earn the Arizona Trail \$50,000

Isn't that worth a moment of your time. Try it with your morning coffee!!!
Details at www.aztrail.org or www.BlazeTheTrail.com/GreatOutdoors/

Vote every day through midnight on August 31, 2010. You can vote online (no texting this year) at www.BlazeTheTrail.com/GreatOutdoors/ for the Arizona Trail project (and please ask your friends to vote, too).

If the ATA earns the \$50,000, the funds are slated to build an 11-mile reroute in the Black Hills passage north of Oracle and help with needed trailheads and kiosks in Pima and Pinal Counties. Those Arizona Trail enhancements would be a tremendous amenity for hikers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists and all Arizona trail users.

Each and every vote for our Trail is appreciated.

Vote every day!

Save this date! Annual Members' Rendezvous

September 24-26, 2010...ATA Member Rendezvous at Mormon Lake Lodge
An annual Arizona Trail tradition not to be missed!
Watch the website calendar (aztrail.org/calendar.html) for details.

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Bronco Turns 200



The Bronco turns 200,000 miles! Donated by Phelps Dodge (now Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold) to the Arizona Trail Association about 10 years ago, the 1996 Bronco has seen a lot of the state of Arizona and many of the 4WD roads that lead to the AZT. It has some rattles and creaks but it's still going strong.



Sean Powell, left, and Zane Shewalter dig into the concrete while Scott Regan looks on during REI Arizona Trail Day.

REI Arizona Trail Day April 3 East of Tucson



Reveling in the completion of the new La Sevilla information kiosk at Colossal Cave Mountain Park east of Tucson is, from right, Tim McCabe, and Bob Seaberg, Jacki Clark and Max Shemwell. At left, mountain biker David Schaffner celebrates, too. Maybe we'll get him out there next time to help mix cement and dig holes before his ride.



REI Arizona Trail Work Day's "hillside crew" had an impressive view as a backdrop for their labor. The Trail is a National Scenic Trail for a reason!



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www.aztrail.org
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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: _____

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