



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

Trail Talk: ATA Members Voice Desires and Ideas for the Trail

Cate Bradley

On February 5th, 2011, members of the Arizona Trail Association met in Superior, Arizona, and after the requisite elections and business reports were taken care of, proposed goals for the draft revised Strategic Plan which will guide the organization for the next five years were reviewed and discussed by members.

Superior Mayor Michael Hing opened the meeting with an enthusiastic endorsement of the Arizona Trail and its beneficial impact on the Town of Superior. ATA Board member and treasurer Kent Taylor then explained the Board's efforts to revise the Strategic Plan, including the proposed goals. With help from Cate Bradley of the National Park Service's River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, ATA members facilitated small group discussions among other members responding to the proposed goals of the draft plan.



Connie Simmons, June Storment, Judy Eidson, and Nancy Vail, of Hiken Girls found time to attend the meeting in between AZT hikes.



Francisco Mendoza accepts the 2010 Agency Partner award for the Bureau of Land Management from ATA President Emily Notingham.

The Strategic Plan includes four main goals: to build and maintain the Arizona Trail; to promote the Arizona Trail; to protect and sustain the Arizona Trail; and to grow and sustain the Arizona Trail Association. In addition to reviewing

each goal, members identified changes and additional topics for consideration as goals. Some of the comments included the need for more specific mapping for re-routes, trailheads, and mountain bike and equestrian routes. There is a desire for definitions about concepts such as "100% completion" and "first class trail experience". Members also want greater clarification of the roles of segment stewards and better trail signage. Lastly, members brainstormed new ideas

for outreach, promotion, membership cultivation, youth involvement, and potential partnerships with agencies.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Your enthusiasm and innovative ideas will help take the ATA to the next level!



ATA Board Member of the Year John Rendall, Central Regional Steward.

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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'm taking advantage of the beautiful weather to get out on the Trail. My new favorite spot is the Davidson Canyon Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead near Vail. I want to thank the ATA for taking the lead in renaming and upgrading the trailhead in my son's name, and in tribute to all those impacted by the January 8 shootings in Tucson. It's a beautiful spot, with a creek, a canyon, lots of history, unique railroad crossings, and, of course, desert. It reminds me of what's best about the Arizona Trail. When I was out there last week, within 10 minutes I saw equestrians, mountain bikers, trail runners and hikers all sharing the trail, stopping to talk to one another, and stopping to take in the scenery. When we say that the Arizona Trail connects the landscape, people and communities, its not just words. Its reality. Next time I'm out, I'm going to chat more with the people I run into; make some new connections, and honor the idea of a trail that connects.

Arizona National Scenic Trail Program Specialist Chosen by Forest Service

The Forest Service has selected Laura White as the Arizona National Scenic Trail Program Specialist for the Southwest Regional Office of the Forest Service. (Laura is known as "the Coordinator" for short, she notes). As she takes on the challenge of administering the National Scenic Trail in Arizona, she says she's "really thrilled to have a job where I get to focus exclusively on nonmotorized trails."

A native Arizonan, Laura White has deep roots in Arizona and the Coronado National Forest, where she



has worked for over 21 years doing a range of jobs. Laura continues to live in St. David near the San Pedro River. Of her experiences with the Forest Service, she has most enjoyed wilderness and trails work.

She welcomes the opportunity to work with the Arizona Trail Association and agency partners in the management of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. "I just really want everyone to know I'll continue to work toward the vision of making this a world-class experience," promised Laura.



Congratulations Superior!
The first Gateway community
with its own connector trail!

Superior, Arizona's Mayor Michael Hing cuts the ribbon on the LOST (Legends of Superior Trail) on February 12th.

Laddie Cox, the trail building guru of the Arizona Trail Association, spearheaded the effort manned by Superior residents who volunteered over the course of year to build the four mile trail from Superior's airport to the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

The trail is marked with a logo designed by local High School Marketing Club students, who also volunteered in building the trail and have since conducted clean ups on the trail.

Annual Meeting continued



ATA Trail Stewardship awards went to Pablo Burghard (Alamo Canyon) ...



... and Joe Longbotham (all-rounder) shown at right. Zay Hartigan (Canelo Hills East), Bob Bruce and Matt Gilbert (Four Peaks) also received Stewardship awards.



ATA Outstanding Volunteer Award winner Phyllis Ralley displays her award for her wide-ranging contributions in many areas, including outreach, media and newsletter design.



ATA Outstanding Volunteer Award honors David Burkett for his maintenance and care of the ATA trail tools and his support of the on-the-ground trailwork in general. Dave shows off his new hardware with Emily Nottingham.



Young women from DECA, the Superior Junior/Senior High School Marketing Club, helped provide breakfast at the Annual Meeting held in the school's Multi-Purpose room. Thanks to Superior High School for their support and the wonderful facility.

Thank you to **Jade Grill** of Superior who catered our lunch.
The food was fresh, nutritious and on time.
You even made our vegetarians happy!
ThankYou





Get Ready for the Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure

It's For Everyone

Hikers, Equestrians, Mountain Bikers, and Trail Runners
Clubs, Employee Groups, Families and Friends are welcome

Form a group today and start preparing for
your Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure

ACTA will be held from September 15 - October 31, 2011

Register NOW!!!

- No fee to participate
- Traverse a few Arizona Trail (AZT) miles or 800 miles - your group decides
- You choose from 100 AZT sections from Mexico to Utah
- You form the group
- You choose the mode - foot, pedal or hoof
- You choose the date between September 15 and October 31
- You register your group before July 31
- Groups recognized on the ATCA Epicenter Web Page
- Progress tracked by SPOT
- SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Visit <http://www.aztrail.org/centennial/adventure.html> for info and how to register

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Plan for Some Trail Time on Arizona Trail Day in Patagonia

--by Terri Gay

Patagonia's Arizona Trail Day on Saturday, April 23, spotlights Patagonia's special importance as an Arizona Trail Gateway Community. Enjoy a little trail time on April 23, starting in the town park, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wear your hiking boots, bring your bike or saddle up the steed!

Birders (or first-time birders) can enjoy a guided bird walk at the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve at 9 a.m. (entrance fees are waived for the day!) Bikes can pedal out at 9:30 a.m. from the gazebo for a guided historic tour of the Harshaw Road area east of town, or choose to ride the challenging Red Rock Canyon/Arizona Trail Loop on your own or with Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists. Walkers can explore trails like the Train Track Trail starting in town (guided hike at 10:30 a.m.) and the Arizona Trail with trailheads on Harshaw Road and at Temporal Gulch. For equestrians, this country was made for horses. Trailer to Canelo Pass or Harshaw Road trailheads and head out to miles of scenic riding. Afterwards, enjoy music, mini-talks on sustainability and trails, food (benefits Patagonia Museum and Volunteer Fire Department), information booths in the park, and shop for plants at the Native Seeds/SEARCH plant sale.

Because Patagonia is an Arizona Trail Gateway Community, the town is featured by the Arizona Trail Association as a major resource for trail users. The Gateway program is mutually beneficial for both the trail and the area by bringing visitors via festivals and events and by informing and involving the residents in trail maintenance, promotion and protection.

PATAGONIA EVENT INFO

For a schedule of the day's events, please visit aztrail.org, or patagoniaaz.com and click on "calendar".

Patagonia is only 60 miles south of Tucson. Take I-10 east to exit 281 south to Sonoita. Turn right on Hwy 82 and continue 13 miles to Patagonia. Information on accommodations can be found at patagoniaaz.com.

Trail Donation Builds Dual Legacy

On behalf of her grandchildren--Garrett, Nathan, Grant, Adam, Tyler, Ryan, McKay, and Kacie--the next generation of trail builders), Mary Ellen Mylrea made the largest donation to the Arizona Trail Association in its history. The donation is set aside to build a mile of Arizona Trail in the Flagstaff area. The ATA and trail users are very grateful for this generous contribution.

Wilderness Bypass Trail Planned for the Santa Catalinas

A route around the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, which includes a section of the Arizona Trail that is not open to bikes and is very difficult for equestrians, is under consideration.

The Coronado National Forest proposes to extend the Incinerator Ridge Trail connecting it to Upper Green Mountain Trail, Butterfly Trail, Crystal Spring Trail, Oracle Ridge Trail, and Bug Springs Trail. Maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be performed on 1.5 miles of trail.

The trail extension would be constructed in proximity to the existing trail corridor, and sited and designed to most effectively accommodate mountain bikes, equestrians, and hikers. Most of the current trail route would be relocated. Small sections of wildcat trails (that is, user-created trails that are not designated NFS trails) that meet design standards would be incorporated.

Find more information at http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_content.php?project=7943

Appreciative Hiker

Message from an appreciative hiker:

From: Harold 'Pickle' Herring

Subject: Completion of AZT

To whom it may concern:

This is to inform you that I completed my hike of the Arizona Trail on Wed, 24 November 2010. My first day of hiking on the trail was on 16 April 2007. It was a great experience. Thanks to all who made it possible.

-- Pickle

Blind Hiker Starts Trek

Blind hiker "Sensei" Mike Armstrong of Phoenix starts his 40-day trek across Arizona on April 2 at the south end of the Arizona Trail! Mike is a hiker, musician and martial arts teacher from Phoenix who has climbed Kilimanjaro and hiked the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim-to-rim. His Arizona Trail adventure is a fundraiser for the Foundation for Blind Children. Follow his feats at <http://blindmotivation.com/>.

www.aztrail.org

for latest information

Trail Guardian

The Allstate Foundation (on behalf of the Max Shemwell Agency)

AZ Partsmaster

Best Western Pony Soldier Inn & Suites, Flagstaff

Dr. Bruce J. Lachot & Dr. Kent C. Loo

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of Arizona

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Resolution Copper

Rosemont Copper

SRP



New Volunteer Hours Person

A very big thanks to Board Member Anna Pfender who has agreed to take on the ATA Volunteer Hours collection and oversight duties. Be sure to submit your own hours to crew leaders and help Anna keep track of the sweat we shed on the trail.

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.

June 4 - National Trails Day San Francisco Peaks

"Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail"

The Coconino National Forest is again sponsoring a major trail building event on the AZT to help "Close the Gap". This is a popular event, drawing well over 150 volunteers to help celebrate National Trails Day. Experienced crew leaders, tools and gloves are provided. Lunch and portable toilets are provided. The work location is just outside of Flagstaff. Exact location, time and directions will be provided later. To sign up for this work event contact Gary or Gay Hohner at sghohner@cox.net.

Newest Regional Steward

Please welcome **Quentin Lewton** as the ATA's new Regional Chief Steward for the southern region of the Arizona Trail. The southern region is from the Arizona/Mexico border to the Coronado National Forest boundary at Oracle State Park. It includes 12 AZT Passages and over 200 miles of premier Arizona Trail. Quentin resides in Sonoita and has been the Temporal Gulch passage steward for several years. He has been actively involved in the Gateway Community outreach efforts and also in getting additional Arizona Trail signage in communities and at road crossings. Quentin replaces Bernie Stalman who withdrew from the regional steward duties after several years of excellent leadership and many miles of trail construction.



ATA members wish Annie McVay a fond farewell as she departed State Parks to pursue her Doctorate. Left to right Larry Snead, Phyllis Ralley, Dave Hicks, Annie McVay, Laddie Cox, Andrea Michaels and Anna Pfender, Jan Hancock was manning the camera.

Giving Thanks for the Arizona Trail

Phyllis Ralley

field notes

“This is the best Thanksgiving I have ever had,” said my husband Wayne. We sat relaxing, not only after our dinner of crock pot turkey breast and the fixings, but also after a day on the Arizona Trail.

Picketpost Trailhead (the end of the Alamo Passage and the beginning of the Reavis Canyon Passage) is about an hour drive from our South Phoenix home. We arrived at the trailhead around ten on the bright sunny, but crisply cool, morning.

I wanted to hike north first and find the saguaro on the Reavis Canyon Passage that our trail angel friends Leroy Brady and Vicki Bever from the Arizona Department of Transportation had protected. When the new divided highway was built, it jeopardized a mighty saguaro caught between the east bound and west bound lanes. It was scheduled to be moved which is not good news for a cactus old enough to have arms. They have a 50 percent survival rate. But the highway contractor phoned ADOT one day and said they thought the cactus could be saved. Mr Brady and Ms Bever insisted they design a retaining wall to protect the cactus and channel rain runoff to the plant. It took a contractor with an eye for the environment who really wanted to save the cactus and ADOT executed a change order to their contract.

The results are beautiful and if you look closely as you drive along the two lanes of highway that cross over equestrian friendly underpasses, past the turnoff to the Trailhead, you can see the saguaro I dubbed Armed-with-Arms towering over the roadway.

Back at the trailhead after our visit to the cactus, we warmed our fingers, ate “nature’s energy bars” (bananas) as my husband calls them before we set off south on the Alamo Canyon Passage. The trail crosses an impressive wash signed “Do Not Enter When Flooded.” The Trail climbs up the side of the foothills of mighty Picketpost Mountain. As we climbed and descended and switch backed around Picketpost above us, its face changed with the low winter sun on its sides.

The trail is soft, sandy dirt in places and I watched for tracks. We had arrived too late in the morning to see much wildlife. I pointed out a paw print. By the size, it was probably a bobcat.

We turned back when my knee with the torn meniscus had had enough. The weather turned perfect - crisp, cool with lovely white clouds against the most brilliant of blue skies.

Originally I had planned to stay in Superior, dine on Mexican cuisine at Los Hermanos, and stay in the lovely and eclectically decorated Copper Mountain Motel. It sits on the east side of Superior and has an awesome sunset view of Picketpost Mountain to the west. Superior was “closed for Thanksgiving” so Wayne and I drove back to Phoenix to dig into the feast we had waiting in the crock pot.

I give my thanks for the stunning beauty of the tiny portion of the magnificent Arizona Trail that we experienced that Thanksgiving Day.

Picketpost is about 60 miles east of Phoenix. Take Hwy 60 past mile post 221 and watch for the sign. It is about a mile west of Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park.





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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.

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Send only an email receipt, use my money for the Trail.

Membership forms and dues payment also available online:
www.aztrail.org

The Arizona Trail Association is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization

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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: _____

Make check payable to Arizona Trail Association (ATA)

Mail to: Arizona Trail Association
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