

# Arizona Trail

News and information from the  
Arizona National Scenic Trail

A National  
Scenic Trail

# NEWS



Spring 2014

## AZT Trek Celebrates the Arizona National Scenic Trail and You are Invited to Join in the Adventure

It took 30 years for the dream of the Arizona Trail to become a reality, and in 2011 the cross-state trail was completed, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, communities and people. While most experience the AZT on day trips from a variety of trailheads throughout the state, some attempt the entire 800-mile challenge in a single push.

From March 14 to May 31, Sirena Dufault, age 40, will hike the entire AZT from the U.S./Mexico border to the Utah state line...and everyone is invited to participate. As a celebration of the Arizona National Scenic Trail and to support the ATA, Sirena has organized the AZT Trek.

This interactive thru-hike allows the general public to join Sirena for select portions of the AZT (8 day hikes and 6 backpacking trips have been identified); gather with other trail enthusiasts at evening events (14 parties within communities located near the trail are planned); and follow the progress of the AZT Trek through an online satellite tracking system and Sirena's blog. She will be posting on-the-trail updates on the Arizona Trail Association's Facebook page and on Twitter at @AZTRAIL #AZTtrek

"The AZT Trek encourages people from throughout Arizona to enjoy the best passages of the Arizona Trail and experience the charming gateway communities along the way," said Sirena. Each of the community events will include food, entertainment, and Arizona Trail Ale. Your Complete Guide to the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the



**Starting at Montezuma Pass in the Coronado National Memorial, nearly 30 people joined Sirena to begin her 800+ mile hike across Arizona.**

recently published official guidebook which Sirena helped write, will be for sale at the events. "It's like a book tour... on foot," Sirena said, "and no, I won't be carrying all of the books in my backpack."

The kickoff in Sierra Vista on March 14 was a grand success, and as Sirena makes her way north the momentum seems to be building. "I hope to have a few hundred people join me for the Grand Finale in Page, Arizona on May 31," she said. Complete details on each of the day hikes, backpacking trips and gateway community events can be found at [www.aztrail.org/azttrek](http://www.aztrail.org/azttrek).

Special incentives have been developed for anyone donating dollars to support the ATA through the AZT Trek's Indiegogo campaign. Sirena and the ATA hope to raise \$20,000 to maintain, protect and promote the Arizona Trail

*Continued on page 7*

## The Arizona National Scenic Trail

### *Our Vision ...*

*... a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing 800+ miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, forests, canyons, communities and people.*

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Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

Ocotillo are blooming and thru-hikers have begun their journey north. That means it is Spring on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. We are all very excited about this season – our busiest of the entire year – and look forward to seeing you at one of our many events happening over the next few months.

Sirena Dufault, the Arizona Trail Gateway Community Liaison, has put together a full schedule of hikes, backpacks, and exciting community events throughout Arizona from March 14 to May 31 as part of her epic AZT Trek. Please try to attend as many of these happenings as you can, and share the news with friends throughout the state. We're using the buzz surrounding her solo thru-hike to launch the ATA's first crowd funding campaign, which encourages trail enthusiasts to donate to the ATA and receive some incredible incentives in the process. With increased demand to maintain and protect the Arizona Trail, we need to work together to support the continuous path from Mexico to Utah that so many of us have helped build over the past 30 years.

There are trail work events almost every weekend, and we're always looking for volunteers to help with community information events. If you like talking with folks about the Arizona Trail and don't mind dedicating a few hours to handing out free maps and sharing your passion for the trail with others, please consider volunteering off the trail, too.

This is going to be an amazing year for the Arizona National Scenic Trail. Just as the strawberry-red flowers of the ocotillo are flourishing right now, so is the organization that has worked indefatigably to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail for you and for future generations.

Thank you for supporting the ATA!

See you on the trail,



Matthew J. Nelson  
Executive Director



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### Go Paperless!

Want to receive the Arizona Trail newsletter by email and save paper and postage?  
Email the ATA office at [ata@aztrail.org](mailto:ata@aztrail.org) and let us know!

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Arizona Trail Association, PO Box 36736, Phoenix, Az 85067 602-252-4794 [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org)

## Introducing the New Regional Stewards...

In order to fulfill our responsibilities to maintain and protect the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the ATA relies on regional stewards and segment stewards to care for the trail. Over 100 segment stewards take responsibility for portions of the trail (usually between 3 and 11 miles in length) and report on trail conditions throughout the year. Sometimes these stewards maintain the trail themselves, or recruit friends and/or members of their families, outdoor clubs and social circles, to help out. But entire regions of the state are managed by regional stewards – they are a vital part of the trail’s health and well-being.

When Bernie “Trail Dog” Stalman announced his retirement as Southern Region Steward last year and Anna Pfender (Sonoran Desert Region Steward) decided to spend time away from the United States, it became clear that the ATA needed strong regional stewards in a hurry. We are fortunate that three amazing individuals answered the call.



**Jeff Bridge**

Jeff Bridge agreed to step in to the giant boots of Bernie Stalman as Southern Region Steward, managing all of the passages within the Coronado National Forest (1-6 and 9c-12). Jeff has been a segment steward and stalwart supporter of the trail for many years. Since his retirement is on the horizon, he decided now would be a good time to increase his involvement with a project he cares about deeply. In addition to serving as regional steward, Jeff is also serving food to hungry trail travelers. His restaurant, It’s Greek To Me, located in Catalina, Arizona, provided the dinner for Arizona Trail Day at Colossal Cave Mountain Park on March 29.

One might think that the Sonoran Desert Region might be an easy one to manage. That is, until you spend time on Passages 13, 14 and 15. These remote and sometimes unforgiving passages between Oracle and the Gila River see very little trail traffic, are incredibly inaccessible by roads, are almost entirely devoid of water, and the extreme heat makes them off-limits for much of the year. Add the fact that they’re dominated by catclaw acacia, cholla, and packrats that delight in dragging cactus into the middle of the trail and you start to get a sense of just how challenging it is to maintain these segments of trail. Undaunted, Don Washco came to the rescue.



**Don Washco**

Recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management, Don wanted to give back to an organization that has done so much for the people of Arizona and America. So he agreed to be the Sonoran Desert Regional Steward. He is currently looking for stewards to assist with the regular maintenance of the Black Hills Passage, which is currently in need of four segment stewards.

John Rendall has been a very active part of the ATA for many years, and has enjoyed being the Central Region Steward, but recognized that Passages 16-27 comprised hundreds of miles of rugged terrain – too tall an order to continue managing alone. So he split the Central Region into two: Superstition Mountains and Mazatzal Mountains. Of course, John nabbed the Superstitions, leaving the notoriously rugged Mazatzals for one brave soul: John Matteson.

John has been enjoying retirement for some time, and lives a short distance from the AZT in Fountain Hills. When he’s not restoring a classic Chevy or making custom creations in his woodworking shop, John is out on the trail. And while he enjoys hiking, he derives the most joy from maintaining and improving the AZT. John’s attention to detail, understanding of sustainability, and willingness to spend hours on a single segment make him a great person for the job.

Passage 21 (Pine Mountain) has received untold hours of his care, and he has nearly singlehandedly transformed this portion of the AZT. He recently led a trail work event near Sycamore Creek (a joint effort between ATA and REI), so the first thru-hikers of the season can enjoy a delightful realignment. Where the trail once crashed down a rocky, eroded fall line, it now undulates along a scenic side slope.



**John Matteson**

Please join us in welcoming these three amazing volunteers who greatly contribute to the Arizona Trail. You can drop them an email through the Stewards page at [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org), join them for an upcoming trail work event, and help us fill the gaps where segment stewards are needed.



## Gateway Community Spotlight: Sonoita

The Arizona Trail gateway community of Sonoita is nestled in the big-sky rolling grasslands of southern Arizona. You might be surprised to learn that parts of the movie “*Oklahoma!*” were filmed nearby. At 5,000 feet elevation, it offers a bit of relief during scorching southern Arizona summers.

Since ancient times, the riparian areas near Sonoita have sustained people – from Native Americans to Spaniards, Mexicans, miners, and modern-day ranchers.

There’s plenty of outdoor recreation near Sonoita, whether you’re into hiking, road cycling, mountain biking, camping, birdwatching, or horseback riding. The Mustang, Whetstone and Santa Rita Mountains are all nearby and offer a range of environments from grasslands to forested peaks. The Sonoita Inn offers beautiful accommodations in a rustic setting with unbelievable views to the east.

You can take a break from the Arizona Trail to hop on the Sonoita/Elgin Wine Trail in this area, known as

“Arizona’s Wine Country.” Vineyards dot the landscape and a wonderful afternoon can be had tasting the different varieties. The winding road from Sonoita to Elgin and down toward Parker Canyon Lake is among the most scenic byways in southern Arizona.

Nearby attractions include the historic mining headquarters of Kentucky Camp, right along the Arizona Trail, which offers a “bed and no breakfast” rental through the Coronado National Forest. The Empire Ranch offers a peek inside the workings of an historic ranch and miles of cottonwood-lined cienega to explore.

If you venture out across the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, look for pronghorn (the fastest land animal in North America) and prairie dogs, two species you’re not likely to find anywhere else in this part of the state. The sky is often filled with grassland sparrows, red-tail hawks, and low-flying Northern Harriers that glide just above the ground in search of rodents and other prey.

Sonoita has basic amenities, and what it lacks in storefronts and restaurants it makes up for in nearby natural resources and kind-hearted people. The solitude one can find out in the grasslands is something unique and beautiful that adds to the Arizona Trail experience.

For more information about services available within Sonoita, and each of the AZT’s 33 gateway communities, please visit [www.aztrail.org/gateway/gateway.html](http://www.aztrail.org/gateway/gateway.html).

## 5th Annual Patagonia EarthFEST

Saturday, April 26, 2014 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • All events are free!

Trail Day, Earth Day and Arbor Day are all rolled into one grand event celebrating Patagonia’s biological diversity, cultural heritage and local resiliency. This year’s focus: WATER. Bring your walking shoes, binoculars, curiosity and water bottle.

Don’t miss the Arizona Trail Association’s Fred Gaudet’s presentation on water sources for trail users. Enjoy the many guided walks, information booths, and expert presentations spotlighting water issues.

- Demonstrations of watershed impacts and effects
- Water Resources for Trail Users, presented by Fred Gaudet, Arizona Trail Association’s manager of the ATA’s Water Source Databook
- A Naturalist’s Saunter Along Sonoita Creek, hosted by Vincent Pinto of Raven’s Way Wild Journeys
- Hummingbird presentation from Susan Wethington, Executive Director of Hummingbird Monitoring Network, and hummingbird watching at world-famous Paton house
- Walking history tour of town and town bike tour with German Quiroga of Patagonia Museum

For more information visit [www.patagoniaaz.com](http://www.patagoniaaz.com) or EARTHfest Facebook page at EARTHfestPatagoniaAZ

Presented by Town of Patagonia, Arizona Trail Association, Mountain Empire Trail Association, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, The Patagonia Museum, Raven’s Way Wild Journeys, Borderlands Restoration, Town Park & Tree Committee, Community Garden, and Hummingbird Monitoring Network.



# New Arizona Trail Maps Feature the AZT and Other Trails Near Gateway Communities

There are many Gateway Communities located near the Arizona Trail, each with its own amenities, history, and local attractions. These communities make wonderful destinations for exploring the Arizona Trail and other natural wonders throughout the state. From the smallest towns to major cities, each Gateway Community has its own unique charm that contributes to the Arizona Trail experience.

The Arizona Trail Association is proud to release a new series of Arizona Trail maps specific to most of the gateway communities located near the trail. For years, we've had requests to produce a map that shows visitors and local community members alike how to find the nearest trailhead, some options of where to explore the AZT, and other trails in the area. So we did.

The Arizona Trail Gateway Community Map Series is an excellent navigational resource for a day trip along the Arizona Trail, and feature:

- Trailheads to access the Arizona Trail
- Mileage so you can choose a distance that's right for you
- Other trails and roads so you can plan loops, car shuttles, and more
- Shade-relief, topographic lines, and major geographical features identified
- UTM and Lat/Long data for GPS users
- Printed on waterproof, sweatproof and virtually indestructible material

Maps are available for these Gateway Communities (south to north): Sierra Vista, Patagonia, Sonoita, Vail, Tucson, Oracle, Hayden & Dudleyville, Kelvin/Riverside & Kearny, Superior, Roosevelt & Tonto Basin, Payson, Pine & Strawberry, Mormon Lake, Flagstaff, Tusayan & South Rim, North Rim, Jacob Lake, Page, Fredonia & Kanab.

You can only get these maps within the gateway communities themselves, and funds generated from the sale of the maps (\$1 each) stay within the community. Collect all 19 maps in the series, and enjoy everything that Arizona Trail Gateway Communities have to offer.

Maps were developed, printed and distributed thanks to a grant from Freeport-MoRan Copper & Gold Foundation.



# AZ Trail To Go – The Ultimate Smartphone App

by David Rabb

Have you ever been on the Arizona Trail and come across something that you felt should be shared with other trail users... a fallen tree blocking the trail, a missing sign, a new water source, choice campsite, or just an amazing viewpoint? *AZ Trail To Go* lets you do just that. It's an interactive website for the Arizona Trail that lets you report any number of trail conditions which are then immediately made available to other users.

Best of all, you don't need to have internet connectivity to report something. This website works even when your smartphone is out of range of your service provider. Submitted items are just stored locally on your smartphone until you get back into civilization, at which point they are synched up with *AZ Trail To Go*.

Segment Stewards can use this to track their passage's conditions. Just bring a smartphone along on your scouting trips and quickly log any conditions



[AzTrailToGo.azurewebsites.net](http://AzTrailToGo.azurewebsites.net)

that you encounter as you see them. Your smartphone will provide the GPS coordinates and you can even include a photo with the submission.

Before you hit the trail, you'll also want to check out *AZ Trail To Go* for the latest conditions. You can view the locations and item types that you are most interested in. Then save that list for offline viewing while you are on the trail, print it out, or download a KML, KMZ or GPX track with the track and conditions to bring along in your favorite GPS device.

Right now, *AZ Trail To Go* is in its initial test phase, so please try it out and let us know what you think. There's nothing to install. Just visit the website with your smartphone before you hit the trail and verify that you have a compatible browser. Instructions are on the site.

[AzTrailToGo.azurewebsites.net](http://AzTrailToGo.azurewebsites.net)

Happy Trails.

*David Rabb has hiked the length of the Arizona National Scenic Trail, is a segment steward for Passage 12a, is a member of the "Thursday Crazy's" and "Tom's Sawyers," and has independently developed the AZ Trail to Go to assist in trail maintenance and safety for all.*

## New Shirts for Spring

We're excited to announce new shirt colors for 2014 – chocolate brown and forest green! By popular demand, we're offering our "Journey to Center: The Arizona Trail" design on these 100% jersey cotton shirts. They are the most comfortable and durable T-shirts available, and are made in the USA. They feature the Arizona National Scenic Trail logo on the front and the full-color design from Flagstaff artist Cole Habay on the back.

These fresh new T-shirts are available for sale for \$25 each on the Shop page at [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org), and every purchase supports the ATA's mission to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land. They make great gifts, too! Members who join or renew at the Mesquite or Saguaro level can choose one of these shirts as a membership premium.

T-shirts from last year (in camel and asphalt colors) will be sold for a discounted price of \$21 per shirt while supplies last. Check out the Shop page for details on available colors and sizes.



AZT Trek, *continued from page 1*

through this effort. To learn more, please visit [www.aztrail.org/azttrek](http://www.aztrail.org/azttrek), and please share the information with friends! The only way we'll reach our goal is with your help.

Among the exciting incentives for donors are:

- Steel Chimenea with the Arizona Trail logo, from metal worker and artist Rob Bauer

- Brewer for a Day, including meals, lodging and craft beer instruction from Steve at That Brewery in Pine

- Gateway Community Adventure Package – includes food, lodging and other benefits within many of the AZT's gateway communities

- and much more!



# **TREK**

**800 Miles from Mexico to Utah**

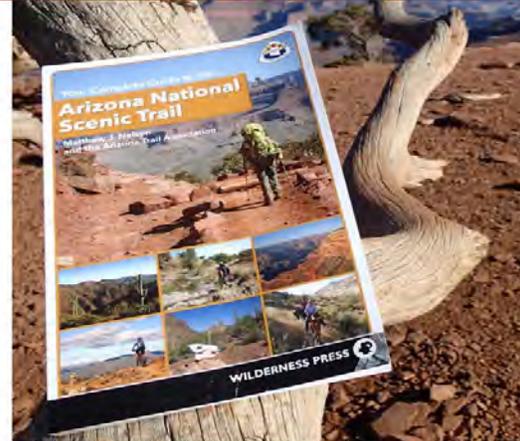
**March 14 – May 31, 2014**

**Celebrating the trail and connecting Gateway Communities one step at a time**



**Join Sirena as she hikes 800 miles across Arizona to promote the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the Gateway Communities and the new official guidebook- and raise \$20,000 for the Arizona Trail Association!**

-  **Fun events in the Gateway Communities with good food, live music and Arizona Trail Ale!**
-  **Participate in day hikes and backpacking trips highlighting the best of the Arizona Trail**
-  **Get on-the-trail updates on the Arizona Trail Association Facebook or on Twitter @AZTRAIL #AZTtrek**



**Follow Sirena's journey and donate online at [www.aztrail.org/azttrek](http://www.aztrail.org/azttrek)**

## Business Partner Spotlight: Westwind Solar Electric, Inc.

For over 13 years, Daniel Snyder and Westwind Solar Electric have been installing photovoltaic and wind turbine systems throughout the remote corners of Arizona, helping individuals, schools, businesses, ranches and Native American tribal communities experience energy independence.

Among the company's first projects were helping ranching operations convert diesel generators to solar and wind systems, and they still provide services to McDonald Land and Cattle Company, San Rafael Ranch, Mission Outpost Ranch, and others. If you've ever passed through the grasslands of Sonoita and seen large wind turbines, you've seen some of Westwind Solar's work.

In 2002, with new interconnect technology and electric utility acceptance, "grid-tie" systems became more popular and affordable. Grid-tie allows those still connected to utilities to generate their own electricity and offset their monthly bills with power created on their roof or in their backyard.

Westwind Solar Electric maintains two offices in Tucson and Flagstaff, and they are committed



to renewable energy technology and providing quality design and state-of-the-art products for projects big and small.

Some of the company's more noteworthy accomplishments include an off-grid system for a community farm on the Hopi

Reservation, a major solar installation for the Kinlani BIA Dormitory in Flagstaff, and helping people living in far-out places find energy independence. Westwind Solar is one of the primary installers for the *Arizona Wind for Schools Project* which works to install wind turbines and teach wind energy lessons at K-12 schools statewide.

Last Spring, Daniel took a hiatus from the solar and wind world to mountain bike the Arizona Trail between Parker Canyon Lake and X9 Ranch Road (Passages 2-8) on a multi-day bikepacking trip.

Westwind Solar Electric is a Juniper level Business Partner. More information on the company can be found at [www.westwindsolar.com](http://www.westwindsolar.com) or by calling (520) 349-0622 or emailing [daniel@westwindsolar.com](mailto:daniel@westwindsolar.com).

## Arizona Trail Day – Flagstaff Saturday, September 13

Don't miss this celebration of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in Buffalo Park, featuring live music, local food, information booths, kid's activities, a gear swap, Arizona Trail Ale, and much more. Join us for a full-day of activities, presenters, and lots of fun in northern Arizona. The event is free and open to the public, so invite everyone you know who has an interest in the Arizona Trail.



Set beneath Elden Mountain, Buffalo Park is a popular community venue for non-motorized trail users of all kinds to access the Arizona Trail. The park features a memorial bench and plaque honoring Dale Shewalter,



the father of the Arizona Trail. We couldn't think of a better place to host Arizona Trail Day!

September is an ideal time to explore the AZT near Flagstaff, so we've organized an outstanding community event for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to explore the AZT on their own in the morning, then gather at Buffalo Park in the early afternoon for the full schedule of events. The fiesta will continue until sunset.

Arizona Trail Day will bring together hikers, runners, backpackers, equestrians and mountain bikers to celebrate the trail and learn about ways we can all work together to protect and sustain the trail we all love. Bring your trail tales and be prepared to share them with some of the finest folks you'll ever meet.

Save the date, and we'll look forward to seeing you at Buffalo Park on September 13th!

## Trail Running on the AZT

The Arizona Trail Association is excited to announce three upcoming running events on the Arizona National Scenic Trail: August 31 (North Rim), September 27-28 (Flagstaff), and December 6 (Vail). Mark your calendar today for these fun and challenging events, and please share the information with everyone who know who likes to run (or walk swiftly).

August 31 will feature a half-marathon and 7-mile run/walk on forest roads and the AZT south of Jacob Lake. This has been described as “the most pleasant piece of trail in northern Arizona,” passing by the East Rim Viewpoint and traversing high-altitude meadows and subalpine forests. Half-marathon participants will run a loop on forest roads and the Arizona Trail, while those participating in the Tator Tot Trot will travel an out-and-back route on forest roads.

“Since the North Rim is so far away from everywhere, we hope people bring their families and make a weekend out of it,” said Executive Director Matthew Nelson, who designed the half-marathon route. The event is held on



### ***Running along Passage 7 during last year's Arizona Trail Half-Marathon.***

event encourages ultra-runners to travel the historic stage coach route between Flagstaff and Tusayan. From the aspen groves beneath the San Francisco Peaks, across the Babbitt Ranch, and finishing at the gateway community to Grand Canyon's South Rim, this event is among the most scenic in the West. While a few will attempt the entire distance alone, most organize teams and tackle the distance in 2, 4, 6 and 8-person teams.

December 6 features the Arizona Trail Half-Marathon & 10K near Vail, Arizona. Participants run along Passage 7 of the AZT and finish at the Gabe Zimmerman Davidson Canyon Trailhead. This route is mostly downhill and the trail is in great condition, offering road runners a great venue for honing their trail running skills.

Sunday, giving people time to travel on Saturday and enjoy all that the Kaibab Plateau has to offer (like cookies at the Jacob Lake Inn and perhaps a trip to the North Rim of Grand Canyon). Monday is a federal holiday, so runners from southern Arizona can escape the heat and enjoy a long weekend among the aspens and meadows.

September 27-28 marks the return of the Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stage Coach Line Ultra. This 100-mile



***Solo runners begin their long journey between Flagstaff and Tusayan during the inaugural Ultra.***

All events benefit the ATA, and are intended to help get more runners excited about the possibilities that exist along the Arizona Trail. Please help us spread the word! Detailed information on each the events can be found at [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org) on the “Events” page.

Volunteers are needed to ensure the safety and success of these running events, so please contact the organizers online if you would like to help.

# Spring Break in the Santa Rita Mountains

by Deborah Oslik

Since the Seeds of Stewardship program began in the fall of 2012, it has been a dream of mine to bring students together from throughout Arizona to share in a wilderness experience. I am sure part of this dream is inspired by the greater purpose of the Arizona Trail, which is intended to connect not only wildly different landscapes over 800+ miles, but also communities and people throughout the state.

I have spent many weeks in the field witnessing powerful and transformative experiences in students. I wanted to engage them in an opportunity of being bunched together where many of the social constructs that teenagers feel define them stop seeming so isolating.

In the wilderness, people have the rare opportunity to get to know other people that look so different from themselves, but in actuality are sharing in the same human experience they are. Through this process of discovering new friends, students have an opportunity to discover a bit more about themselves. At the end of the trip, one student reflected: "I feel like I can be a better person if I want to."



**Deborah Oslik (right) leads a group of high schoolers on a 4-day trek through the Santa Rita Mountains.**

Our group was comprised of six high school students, representing an array of nationalities, ethnicities, personal identities, life stories, and hometowns in Arizona. Our trip was a four-day backpacking trip through the Santa



Rita Mountains from March 20-23, where we had the opportunity to leave behind everything we didn't need and venture into the backcountry. We covered approximately 20 miles and climbed over 1,500 feet into the mountains. We saw mountains into Mexico and sourced water from running creeks. We caught Sonoran mud turtles in the creeks, chased canyon tree frogs along boulders, and enjoyed swimming in painfully cold stream water. And we walked on the same segment of trail where jaguar tracks have recently been documented.



Students had the opportunity to build backcountry travel skills by cooking and enjoying meals together, managing group pace on the trail, and reading topographic maps. One student wrote that he learned that "you can always make a great meal with simple ingredients."

We discussed the implications of the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine over quesadillas and soup, and shared stories about life's hardships. As instructors, we saw students show up shy, and by the end of trip, relating and laughing with new friends they may never have spoken to if encountered in school or on the street.

The trip was a great success and here are some of the participating students' comments to prove it:

"Now I understand the meaning of the outdoors."

"This is the first thing I have ever really finished, from start to finish. I didn't give up."

"I learned a lot about myself this weekend. I never thought I could do it but I proved myself wrong! I will keep these memories with me forever."

"I did many things I thought I'd never do. Even with no electricity or electronics, we can all have a great time. There are so many things that city people are missing out on. It was nice to go out and enjoy the wilderness."

Thanks to all of the ATA members and donors who support the Seeds of Stewardship program. With your help we are able to inspire the next generation of stewards of Arizona's wild lands. Everyone is looking forward to more rewarding experiences on the Arizona Trail!

# Remembering Chuck Williams

by Gay Hohner

Chuck Williams was an outdoor enthusiast, hiker and avid photographer who volunteered an incredible number of hours for the Arizona Trail Association. Chuck and his camera became a regular part of “Close the Gap” weekends on the Arizona Trail beginning in 2008, and he continued to be active until August of 2013. ATA has a treasure trove of his outstanding photographs on file; they have appeared on the website, in newsletters, event reports, and adorn the walls of the ATA office. He led an inspiring life, and his many ATA friends were blessed to be a part of it. Charles H. Williams IV of Scottsdale, Arizona passed away on January 20, 2014 at the age of 80.

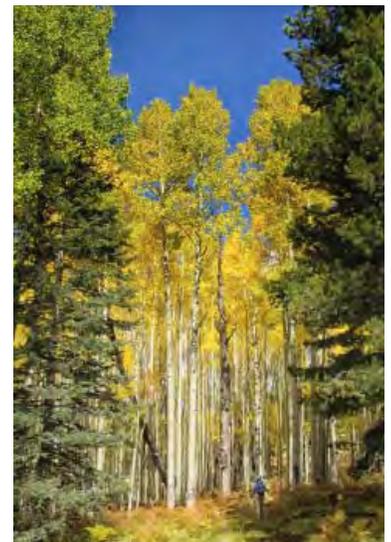
Chuck brought out the best in others, shared his expertise, and encouraged others to excel with their own special skills. I know he appreciated beauty and shared his interpretations. He was not into self-aggrandizement. Confident, competent, and modest, Chuck kept busy with creative and constructive activities; he did not flaunt his many accomplishments. His approach to life is an inspiring example.

If you had to choose one quality to describe Chuck’s outlook on life or his photographs, that would be his focus on beauty. He found beauty in people and he saw beauty in the outdoors. His photographs revealed magnificent beauty in composition, color and detail.

Hundreds of stunning photographs document faces of volunteers amidst the scenery of the San Francisco Peaks Passage during the “Close the Gap” events. Chuck recorded the silhouettes of the towering ponderosas against the grandeur of the Peaks. He shared the beauty of intricate branches and pinecones and captured brilliance in a single wildflower.

Chuck loved the North Rim. My husband Gary and I were fortunate to share some of those hikes along the Rainbow Rim and on the Arizona Trail with him. Chuck loved to photograph the aspens in their fall glory. In his own words, “The colors surround us and reward the effort to seek them out and savor the beauty. Photographers have the opportunity to capture, preserve, and share the essence.”

You can view this photo book (Arizona Fall Color, 2012) and 28 other books online: [www.blurb.com/user/chuckwill](http://www.blurb.com/user/chuckwill)





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Fleet Feet Sports  
Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce  
Green Valley Hiking Club  
Hancock Resources  
High Jinks Ranch

Inn Suites  
Intel  
Interwealth Management  
It's Greek to Me - Jeff Bridge  
Jade Grill Asian BBQ  
Jordan, Bischoff & Hiser, PLC  
Juan Jaime's Tacos and Tequila  
OLD TIME PIZZA  
Oracle Patio Cafe  
Peace Surplus  
Pima Trails Association  
Porter's Cafe  
Reevis Mountain School of Self-Reliance  
Summit Hut  
Sunnyside Medcenter, P.C.  
THAT BREWERY  
Tucson Saddle Club  
Valley Toyota Dealers  
Wanderlust Brewing Company  
We Cook Pizza and Pasta  
Westwind Solar Electric, Inc.  
Woolston & Tarter, P.C.