Blue Ridge - Been there yet?

Note: ATA members may download a full sized version of this map at www.aztrail.org/at_passages.html. Just enter the password you received when you became a member.
Executive Director’s Mid-Year Report
From Dave Hicks -

- A hiking, mountain bicycling and equestrian trail traversing Arizona—nearly 817 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, forests, mountains, canyons, communities and people.

ATA Board of Directors
Emily Nottingham, President
Dale Shewalter, AZT Founder
Kent Taylor, Treasurer, Tortilla Mts. Steward
Lyn White, Secretary, Government Relations Chair
Terry Woolston, VP of Trail Operations
Laddie Cox, Remote Areas Chief Steward
Gary Hohner, Regional Steward - North
John Rendall, Regional Steward - Central
Bernie Stalmann, Regional Steward - South

Board Members at Large:
Steve Anderson
Lisa Atkins
Bob Bohannan
Fred Gaudet, White Canyon Steward
Jan Hancock
Anna Pfender, Tortilla Mts. Steward
Martin Schultz
Russell Smoldon
Eric Smith
Randy Warner
Wendy Erica Werden, Rincon Valley Steward
Doug Whitneybell

Other Personnel
Dave Hicks, Executive Director
Vacant-- Membership Chairperson
Debbie Thorman, Membership & Customer Services
David Babcock, Web Master
Terri Gay, Newsletter Editor
Phyllis Ralley, Maps & Graphics
Dave Burkett, Tools & Tool Trailer Supervisor
Robert Frieling, Volunteer Hours

- After many years of relentless effort, the AZT’s Congressional approval in March 2009 as a National Scenic Trail is a wonderful accolade. That designation rightly recognizes the scenic beauty of the trail and our state. It also adds a level of protection for our across-Arizona treasure.

- Youth corps crews (ages 18-25) from Southwest Conservation Corps, Coconino Rural Environment Corps and American Conservation Experience, with great support from Arizona State Parks, continue to help build and maintain many AZT sections. Even as the summer heat arrived in parts of the state, the CREC crews were clearing a badly overgrown area in the Four Peaks Wilderness.

- By mid-May 2009, over 600 volunteers have given 11,581 hours to the AZT.

- Regional Chief Stewards estimate that 37 miles of the trail remain to be built. Of course, that leaves about 780 miles that require regular maintenance.

- Arizona Trail stewards (volunteers) are the primary force in watching over adopted sections of the AZT. Sixty-six individuals or couples and groups are trail stewards. Sections need shortened to lengths that are more manageable, so many more stewards are needed. Please contact a Regional Chief Steward—Gary Hohner, John Rendall or Bernie Stalmann—if you are interested in being a trail steward.

- Individual ATA membership at June 30, 2009 was 925. After a decrease last year, membership in the ATA continues to increase. Through June 2009, it is up 15% over last year. About 12% of the individual members are from out of state.

- The ATA recently teamed up with the Arizona State University School of Journalism to develop a campaign to promote the AZT.

- Grant applications were submitted to the Arizona Office of Tourism and REI to develop an Arizona Trail Gateway Communities partnership. That program would form an outreach partnership between the ATA and 19 communities near the AZT.

- A team of eight AZT volunteers will update the 328-page Arizona Trail guidebook, with completion expected in mid 2010.

- The 1990’s Arizona Trail video Journey Through Time is being updated and revamped by Richard Grodzicki. It should be ready for the public by late 2009.

- The AZT continues to receive media recognition in Arizona and nationwide. Trail Runner magazine recognized the AZT in its May issue. Upcoming issues of Backpacker and Men’s Journal both have AZT stories. And, the Arizona Republic continues to run a monthly column by Mike Hayes about his AZT travels with his daughter Maureen.

- Recently the ATA came in second out of five nationwide projects in a public vote for the $50,000 winner-take-all “Greater Outdoors Project.” The ATA’s proposed project would have built five miles of new trail into Saguaro National Park near Tucson. Unfortunately, second place pays the same as last place--$0.00.

- Arizona Heritage Fund grants evaporated as the state wrestles with an enormous budget deficit. Heritage grants are one of the few sources that fund new trail construction. Several approved and planned AZT projects lost funding.

- The wildfires have started in Arizona with the recent Ruby fire shutting down the AZT near Grand Canyon National Park for a few days. Nothing so quickly devastates a trail as wildfire. The Arizona Trail continues to progress as a dynamic and wonderful place to enjoy the Arizona outdoors. Thanks for being a part of it.
President’s Column

The Arizona Trail as a National Scenic Trail is a significant and rare distinction. After all, before this year there were only eight other scenic trails in the nation that had been designated by Congress, and none have been designated in the last 25 years. (Here’s a quiz: can you name the eight?) Then in March, Congress added the Arizona Trail, the Pacific Northwest Trail and the New England Trail, to bring the total to eleven in the country. In a way, the Arizona Trail has hit the big time.

For those who have been on the trail, of course, the designation seems so obvious. A trail that goes across the Grand Canyon, the Mogollon Rim, the Sonoran Desert and Saguaro National Park, to name only a few locations, has got to be one of the most spectacular treks, not only in the nation, but in the world.

The national scenic trail designation will increase our visibility. It also brings increased responsibility to us, its supporters. We need to finish and maintain it so that we do justice to the beautiful country it traverses.

Meanwhile, be sure and thank the Arizona Congressional Delegation for supporting the legislation, in particular the cosponsors, Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl and Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Then go out and enjoy the trail.

(Here’s the answer to the quiz: Appalachian Trail, Continental Divide Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Florida Trail, Ice Age Trail, Natchez Trace, North Country Trail, and Potomac Heritage Trail.)

Emily Nottingham

Tucsonan to Serve as President of Arizona Trail Association

Emily Nottingham of Tucson was selected as president of the Arizona Trail Association at the organization’s board meeting on April 3, 2009. A Tucson resident, she is retired from the City of Tucson, and an enthusiastic hiker. Like many Arizonans, she used parts of the Arizona Trail even before she knew it existed.

“The trail is one of Arizona’s treasures,” said Nottingham. “Whether you hike, ride horses, mountain bike, or run, it allows you to enjoy Arizona’s amazing scenery. I’m proud to be part of that experience.”

Arizona Trail Association President
Emily Nottingham

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.

Thank you Anna Pfender for promoting our National Scenic Trail designation at the National Trails Day event in Flagstaff.

Arizona Trail Association
PO Box 36736
Phoenix, Az 85067
(602) 252-4794
www.aztrail.org
ata@aztrail.org
Members Rendezvous at Mormon Lake Lodge

Friday, September 25--Sunday, September 27, 2009

- See old trail friends, meet new ones, share your adventures
- Celebrate with us on our National Public Lands Day work event
  - Hike, bike and ride our trail
  - Explore the area and see the sights
  - Breakfast and dinner meals included

Registration: $20, or $35 for couples and families

Accommodations (tell them you’re with the Arizona Trail Association):
  - Cabins/Rooms, 10% off with ATA member discount
  - RV Park with hook-ups, 10% off with ATA member discount
  - Dry Tent and RV camping, free with ATA membership (pay showers available)
  - Horse Pens, free

RESERVE EARLY! DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED--ROOMS GO FAST

Schedule of Events

**Friday**

3 p.m.  Registration starts
5-6 p.m.  Social Hour
6-7 p.m.  Dinner
7-9 p.m.  Program

**Saturday**

7-9 a.m.  Breakfast
8:30-noon  Trail Work Event
           Lunch on your own
           Explore local trails, attractions and activities
5-6 p.m.  Social Hour
6-7 p.m.  Dinner at the meeting hall
7-9 p.m.  Program in Celebration of National Scenic Trail

**Sunday**

8 a.m.  Breakfast
9:30 a.m.  Conversation with founding member and former executive director of ATA Larry Snead
           outside of meeting hall
10:30 a.m.  Thank You and Goodbyes

Fun! Friends! in the Cool Pines!

National Public Lands Day
Arizona Trail Work Event

Saturday, September 26, 8:30 a.m. to noon
Mormon Lake Lodge

In conjunction with the ATA Member Rendezvous

National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the “tree army” that worked from 1933–42 to preserve and protect America’s natural heritage. Help improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy.

ATA News Summer 2009 - 4
Saying Goodbye to our Trail Friends

Remembering
Stephen Wood

Stephen’s beloved Santa Rita Mountains Passage.

Remembering Helen Hill

Helen doing what she loved best.
Hiking the Arizona Trail.

Thank you
Annie McVay
of Arizona State Parks
for your constant and
energetic support of
the Arizona Trail.

Thank you
Francisco Mendoza
of the Tucson BLM field
office for your enduring
Arizona Trail building
efforts in the White
Canyon passage.

ATA News Summer 2009 - 5
Arizona Trail is Open in Ruby Fire Area
National Forest Service 6/18/09

WILLIAMS, Ariz. - Please be advised that the Arizona Trail is now open southwest of Grandview Lookout between Watson Tank and Grandview trailhead on the Tusayan Ranger District. Managers closed this four-mile section of the trail on June 10 for public safety. The area has received significant precipitation, which has drastically slowed fire spread. Fire managers have decided that it is safe to reopen the trail.

Also be advised, the Ruby Complex (3,858 acres) is not out. Fire activity will increase if dry and warm conditions return. Stumps and logs will continue to smolder for some time and smoke will remain visible along the trail.

Greater Outdoors Project Grant Awarded to New Orleans

After Arizona Trail supporters endured some edge-of-the-seat days of waiting, the Greater Outdoors Project announced the Friends of New Orleans City Park as the $50,000 grant winner. “We are deeply impressed and inspired by your passion and enthusiasm,” said Redwood Creek on their Blaze the Trail blog, commending all of the groups who participated.

The Arizona Trail thanks all of its members and friends for their support. Our efforts continue, with great energy and determination, to focus on building and maintaining our beautiful Trail.

November ATA Trail Gear Sale
Contribute Gear & Attend the Sale

NEW! Downloadable Access Maps

Arizona 300 Bike Event Held in April

--Scott Morris, TopoFusion GPS Mapping co-founder
Learn more about the Arizona 300 at http://www.topofusion.com/azt/race.php
A seven person crew from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) backpacked into Shake Springs in the Four Peaks on June 1, 2009 and worked hard through Friday, June 5, 2009, clearing the trail corridor. This portion of Passage 20 of the Arizona Trail had a great deal of deadfall and very heavy overgrowth of “fire-regeneration” chaparral, mostly of Deer-Brush (Ceanothus integerrimus). The trail was so overgrown that before this crew cleared the worst stretches, hikers reported that they had to get down on their hands and knees to work their way through.

The CREC crew included:

- Sam Crabtree (Crew Supervisor)
- Judy Tincher (Asst. Crew Supervisor) from Boone, NC
- Mike Breen from Stevensville, Maryland
- Zachary Davidson from Flagstaff, AZ
- Justin Kaylor from Tampa, Florida
- Josh Landes from Pittsfield, Massachusetts
- Christopher Zimny from Billings, Montana

Submitted by Laddie Cox
Thank you to Coconino Rural Environment Corp for clearing the overgrown AZT in remote sections of the trail in the Four Peaks Wilderness in June!

Thank you Dave Burkett for your attentive care for our trail tools and trailers.

Thank you Robert Friel for taking the lead on the immense task of tracking and reporting volunteer hours.

Above: two horses packed for trail work. Right: One of Zay’s horses takes a well-deserved drink.
33_Flagstaff Passage
Fisher Point to Schultz Pass

**Trail Profile**

- **Shultz Pass**
- **Mt Elden Pass**
- **San Francisco Peaks Passage**
- **Mormon Lake Passage**

**Distance in Miles**
- Total Miles: 17.3

**Elevation in Feet**
- 6600 ft
- 7000 ft
- 7400 ft
- 7800 ft
- 8200 ft

**Key**
- The Arizona Trail
- AZ Trail Route
- 4-W Drive Road
- Dirt Road
- All-Weather Road
- Paved Road
- TR 510 Trail (TR)
- FR 510 Trailhead
- Forest Road
- Mountain
- Recreation Site
- Power Line
- Railroad

**Map Legend**
- COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST
- Government Tank
- Little Elen Spring
- Peaks Ranger District
- Sedona
- Camp Townsend Winona Road
- Rio de Flag Hill
- Wildcat Hill
- Museum of Northern Arizona
- COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST
- Elder Mountain
- Shultz Pass Rd
- Shultz Pass Tank
- Shultz Tank
- Schultz Creek Trailhead
- Schultz Pass Rd
- Shultz Pass Rd
- Dry Lake Hills
- Little Elen Spring
- Shultz Tank
- FR 510
- FR 557
- 180
- 89
- 40
33_Flagstaff
Fisher Point to Schultz Pass

General Information:
This passage provides a hiker’s resupply route through the city of Flagstaff using elements of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS). It leaves the Walnut Canyon Passage at Fisher Point then proceeds through Flagstaff and rejoins the Arizona Trail at Schultz Pass.

Length: 17.3 miles Difficulty Rating: Moderate
Recommended Seasons of Use: Spring, Summer and Fall
Water: Water may be found seasonally in Walnut Creek, year round at numerous businesses along the route in Flagstaff, and at the Buffalo Park Trailhead.
Notes/Warnings: All the water found in creeks and springs on this passage should be purified prior to use. The water in the Rio de Flag is contaminated and should not be used.

Access Southern Trailhead: Fisher Point - FR 302 Fisher point has no road access. The closest trail access is via Trail #106 from Canyon Vista Campground, four miles south of Flagstaff on FR 3.
Alternate Access Points: Buffalo Park: From Route 66, take Switzer Canyon Road north and turn right on Turquoise Drive. Turn right at Forest/Cedar Avenue. At the top of the hill, turn left (north) to Buffalo Park.
Northern Trailhead: Schultz Pass - Sunset Trailhead. Accessible from the east side of the mountains along Elden Spring Road (take US 89 north of ‘Flagstaff’ past the Silver Saddle Road stoplight. Turn left onto Elden Spring Road (FR556), a graded dirt road, to the trailhead or horse camp.
From the west side of town, take US 180 north and turn right (east) onto Elden Lookout Road. Immediately turn left (north) onto Schultz Pass Road (FR420), which soon turns into a graded dirt road and arcs eastward to join FR 556 at the trailhead.

Trail Route Description: This passage begins at the bottom of Walnut Canyon near Fisher Point. The route starts up Skunk Canyon, follows several drainages, climbs over several small ridges, goes through a fence and descends down into the Rio de Flag drainage. It goes under Interstate 40 and follows a paved road up to Butler Avenue. It turns left on Forest/Cedar Road and then left on Route 66. It turns right on Switzer Canyon Road, follows it and then turns right on Turquoise Road. This road climbs up to the Forest Avenue Trailhead. From here the trail connects to the Buffalo Park Entrance. The route runs north through this park to the Oldham Trail. This trail climbs up along the side of Mount Elden and then joins the Rocky Ridge Trail. It passes a trailhead and works its way west over to the Schultz Creek Trailhead. The route now follows the Schultz Creek Trail up and around to Schultz Pass and then to the Sunset Trailhead.

Resources:
Maps:
* USGS Topographic Maps: Flagstaff East, Flagstaff West and Humphreys Peak.
* Coconino National Forest - Visitors Guide.
* Coconino National Forest - Recreational Opportunity Guide.
* Coconino National Forest map.
* Arizona Trail 1:24,000 topo maps from BLM Information Center (602) 417-9300

For more information contact:
* The Passage Steward
* City of Flagstaff, 211 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (928) 779-7632.
* Coconino National Forest, Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 (928) 526-0866.
* BLM Information Center (602) 417-9300.
ATA Work Events

“Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail”
July 25-26 - San Francisco Peaks
August 29-30 - San Francisco Peaks

“National Public Lands Day”
September 26, Mormon Lake Passage

Visit www.aztrail.org for details on each event

Please contact the event coordinator for more information about the work event (time & location). Locations listed above are subject to change, and exact locations may not be known at the time of the calendar printing. For multiple day projects, volunteers are welcome any day, or all days (unless backpacking/riding to the site is required).

ATA provides all tools. Please bring work gloves, water, and food. Wear sturdy boots, long sleeves and pants, sunscreen, and a hat. Overnight camping is often primitive (no facilities). Bring your own camping/backpacking equipment and food (unless otherwise noted).

Find trail events and read the latest news and trail conditions at www.aztrail.org

Close the Gap workers on the San Francisco Peaks segment. photos by Chuck Williams

Sean Murphy, Peaks/Mormon Lake District Trails & Wilderness Coordinator, and Paul Conn, ATA trail steward for Segment 34c in the San Francisco Peaks Passage, take a well-earned break during work on the “Close the Gap” project in May.

Thank you,
PhyllisRalley
for your continuing contributions as a volunteer for the Arizona Trail even while meeting your full-time responsibilities at BLM.

Thank you to
Lyn White
for your tireless work that resulted in the AZT earning National Scenic Trail status.

Thank you,
Southwest Conservation Corps
for your National Trail Day work on the Oracle Ridge Trail on June 5.

Thank you to
Gay or Gary Hohner at sghohner@cox.net or 480-595-9303.

“National Public Lands Day”
September 26, Mormon Lake Passage

See page four of this newsletter for your invitation to the 2009 Members’ Rendezvous and the National Public Lands Day work event.

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Become an Arizona Trail Member - Build a Legacy!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY                      STATE                      ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

We do not share our member information!

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES