

Arizona Trail

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

A National Scenic Trail
NEWS



Coast, trot, cruise, dash or amble to the 2011 Arizona Trail Association Member Rendezvous

Friday, September 23 – Sunday, September 25, 2011

Journey to Mormon Lake Lodge for the annual convergence of AZT fanatics on Friday, September 23. Start with Friday's potluck and stay until Sunday's French toast and bacon are devoured! In between, work with us on the National Public Lands Day event, then hike, bike and ride our trail in and around Mormon Lake.

We will also tote up the miles completed and those yet to be traversed for the Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure (ATCA). Help celebrate Arizona's centennial as we blast off into the last weeks of the ATCA! For more on ATCA, visit: <http://www.aztrail.org/centennial/epicenter.html>.

Special presentation: "Team Gotta Walk," aka Ken and Marcia Powers. They walked the AZT in 2010, adding it to their lengthy collection of successful long-distance hikes, all accomplished after they retired from their first careers to their renaissance career of adventuring.

Rendezvous registration (also online at www.aztrail.org/trail_day/rendezvous2011.html): \$50 for non-member individuals (includes a one-year membership) or \$20 for member; \$60 for non-member couples and families (includes a one-year membership), or \$30 for member couples and families. Add \$10 for registration at the event.

What's included in your registration?

Friday

"Rendezvous Café" potluck and presentation

Saturday

Saturday's breakfast buffet

National Public Lands Day work event

Music, campfire and tale-telling

Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure activities

Burgers-n-fixins for Saturday dinner

Sunday

French Toast breakfast and wrap-up presentation

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 9.

Rough-it-or-Not 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! All held rooms released on Aug. 13. Reservations: 928-354-2227

Mormon Lake Lodge is a Premier Legacy Partner of the ATA

Mark Your Calendar!!!

September 15 through October 31, 2011

Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure Celebrating 100 Years



Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure (ATCA) is the perfect fiesta to mark the milestone of cien años of statehood for the Valentine State.

Be a part of this once-in-forever event on our National Scenic Trail. Get a group together, choose your section of trail and register by **July 31** to help us get every inch of the trail hiked, biked, ridden, and run as part of our state's birthday party.

See <http://www.aztrail.org/centennial/epicenter.html> for all the information and references you'll need. To register for this event, **you must use the online form at <http://www.aztrail.org/centennial/adventure.html>**.

Help make this a once-a-century birthday bash one we'll all remember.

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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The Arizona Trail: More Than a Three-Foot-Wide Path

by Dave Hicks

The Arizona Trail is a continuous series of challenging terrain and scenic wonders. But the trail is only a part of the journey. I love many of the noteworthy places on or near the AZT. From south to north, here are just a few:

- 1) The Coronado National Memorial visitor center near the Mexico border is historically significant and a very interesting place. Plan 2-3 hours there and at Montezuma Pass
- 2) Mariposa Books & Visitor Center in Patagonia. Local literature, friendly staff and good visitor information.
- 3) Kentucky Camp – early 1900's mining camp right on the AZT. Share the night with a few ghosts
- 4) Colossal Cave Mountain Park near Vail – food and refreshments, the fun cave tour, horse rentals, and a terrific setting
- 5) Mount Lemmon General Store – a must-stop at the top of the Santa Catalina Mountains for AZT users
- 6) Oracle Market in Oracle – another good stop for supplies, cooked food and sandwiches
- 7) Copper Mountain Motel in Superior – AZT-friendly with clean beds and hot showers. And call them for a ride to/from the AZT
- 8) Roosevelt Dam – a few steps away from the AZT – whew, what a structure
- 9) Mormon Lake Lodge – a mile from the trail and everything that anyone on the AZT needs at reasonable prices, too
- 10) Aspen Sports, downtown Flagstaff – about this point while on the AZT new boots are in order. They have them and much more
- 11) Humphreys Peak – highest point in Arizona. For those of you looking for thin 12,600' air
- 12) Grand Canyon National Park – second best outdoor feature in Arizona
- 13) Jacob Lake Inn – at this far northern AZT point, you will be drawn to their wonderful baked goods
- 14) State Line Trailhead at the AZ/Utah border – don't miss out on this off-the-beaten path campground. The site amenities and spectacular surroundings are terrific.

Davidson Canyon Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead Near Tucson Seeks Support

A trailhead has been renamed and is being renovated to honor Gabe Zimmerman and other victims of the January 8 Tucson tragedy.

The Davidson Canyon Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead is located east of Tucson, north of I-10 at the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve along the Arizona Trail. The setting is a wonderful place for a very thoughtful tribute to Gabe Zimmerman and the other victims.

Will you please consider a donation that will be used for the Davidson Canyon Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead?

If you choose to donate, please send a check payable to the Arizona Trail Association at PO Box 36736, Phoenix Az 85067 and note that it is for the Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead. To donate online, visit PayPal via this link on the ATA donations page: <http://www.aztrail.org/donate.html>

**Arizona Trail Association, PO Box 36736, Phoenix, Az 85067
Phone 602-252-4794**

Closing the Gap on National Trails Day



More progress on the Arizona Trail north of Flagstaff! On June 4, volunteers continued building new trail around the San Francisco Peaks of northern Arizona. The Coconino National Forest Service Flagstaff Ranger District spearheaded the event, and other participants included Flagstaff Biking and the Arizona Trail Association.

Photos: Smokey and Sean Murphy teamed up to lead the effort (right), and (left) hard hats and pick mattocks were “de rigueur” for the weekend.

Photos by Chuck Williams



Free Pocket Map Downloads Now Available for ATA Members

As an ATA member, you can now download Arizona Trail Pocket Map files for FREE.

Non-member price, \$15. Go to <http://www.aztrail.org/maps.php> and follow the easy instructions there to download. The maps are scaled at 1:119,000 and show the trail route, elevation profile, water sources, trailheads, camping areas and more. Once printed, they fold to fit easily in a shirt pocket. Great for through-trips, section-only adventures and planning.



Little trails day attendees

Patagonia Arizona Trail & Earth Day Celebration

“We had a blast,” said Zay Hartigan, trail steward for the Canelo Hills East segment near the Arizona Trail Gateway community of Patagonia. The Patagonia Trails and Earth Day Celebration on April 23, 2011, had great local turnout and enthusiasm for the second year of kudizing all things trails and green.

Canelo Hills West steward Steve Smith showed hikers a “Taste of the Arizona Trail” from the Harshaw Road trailhead, and German Quiroga of the Patagonia Museum shepherded walkers through the town while relating entertaining historical details. Ralph Schmitt’s bike ride out Harshaw Road similarly illustrated past events of the Patagonia area. An afternoon walk through a new Nature Conservancy conservation easement wandered up to the Patagonia cemetery. The vantage point there gave hikers a scenic panorama of the valley.

Planning is already beginning for the 2012 Trail and Earth Day festivities. Hope you can be part of this unique celebration then.



ATA volunteer Jan Allen and Patagonia resident talk trails at the Arizona Trail and Earth Day event.

Supporter Spotlight:

Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists



Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists (SDMB, <http://www.sdmb.org>) are devoted to the promotion of the sport, and view the sport as a vehicle to promote low impact outdoor recreation, conservation, and mountain bicycling opportunities that are environmentally and socially responsible.

SDMB is dedicated to protecting and enhancing mountain bicycling opportunities through fun, safe experiences and social events that also educate and encourage riders; responsible riding and ethical behavior among the mountain bicycling community; working in concert with land managers and owners to improve trails and facilities; working with other user groups to ensure a quality trail experience for all users.

The Arizona Trail Association thanks SDMB for its ongoing support.

Thank You to Our Supporters

The Allstate Foundation

(on behalf of the Max Shemwell Agency)

American Express Charitable Fund

APS

Arizona Community Foundation

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Saguaro Horsemen Association

Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists

Southwest Conservation Corps

SRP

Summit Hut

Sunnyside Medicenter, Mrs. & Dr. Dennis Thrasher

Tucson Saddle Club

Wells Fargo Bank

ATA Salutes All Friends and Allies!

The ATA works together with a multitude of public agencies, citizen organizations and individuals to realize the dream of the Arizona Trail.

The cooperation, effort and advice each partner provides to the ATA is immeasurable. The Arizona Trail's land managing partners include the US Forest Service, Arizona State Land Department, National Park Service, BLM, many counties and municipalities, and Arizona State Parks. These diverse agencies' efforts meld together to help form the AZT experience, a spectacular adventure that would not otherwise exist.

Some summer favorites on the AZT:

"Summerhaven -- It's close to Tucson, there are fun loop hikes, and I can have a pizza and cookies after the hike."

*Emily Nottingham,
ATA president*

"My favorite location along the AZT in summer is Passage #28, Blue Ridge. Some features I really like are some of the remaining old growth forest that was never logged (i.e., Douglas firs and Ponderosa pines), and when arriving to the East Clear Creek drainage, walking downstream and having lunch along the shoreline of Blue Ridge Reservoir. When in this area in September, you can hear the elk all night long. I've also seen wild turkey along this passage."

Eric Smith, board member

Blind Hiker Mike Armstrong Completes Arizona Trail

*by Ben Cane, one of Mike's sighted guides, on Mike's blog
at <http://blindmotivation.com/category/aztrail/>*

"Earlier today (May 29, 2011) I was privileged to guide Sensei Mike Armstrong across the Arizona/Utah border. In the past 57 days Mike has hiked 782.3 miles and became the first blind man to hike the Arizona Trail end to end.

It was a life-altering journey of hardship through hiking. Even though Mike cannot see the beauty of the Arizona landscape, he was able to experience it in a way that only a handful of people can share.

While the journey was longer and more treacherous than we imagined, we hiked on. Even with injuries and the overwhelming homesickness Mike Armstrong tasted, he hiked until his journey was complete.

Congratulations Sensei Mike Armstrong, you have inspired me and many more with your dedication and perseverance.

www.aztrail.org for latest information

A Different Sort of Arizona Trail Trekker



Jasmine stopped dead at the downed tree on the Italian Springs Trail in the Rincon Mountains east of Tucson. Definitely no getting over this one with her 50 pound pack. After unloading and some serious eyeballing of the obstacle, Jasmine sat back—not a running start, mind you—and leaped the log. Not bad for a miniature donkey only 38" tall at the withers.

Tucsonan Leigh Anne Thrasher, Jasmine's human, figures even though she was dreading having to retrace the trek back up to Manning Camp and back down to the Rincon valley, Jasmine probably hated the idea even more. "Our worst nightmare is this sort of deadfall," says Leigh Anne, still in awe of Jasmine's log hop.

Some backcountry trail crews know Jasmine from her Mount Lemmon forays in the Santa Catalina mountains outside of Tucson. They have even adopted the "Jasmine Test" as part of their trail maintenance standards: logs get cut so even Jasmine can get over them.

Leigh Anne says the experience has been empowering and inspiring. "I feel blessed to be the recipient of all these people's work, that someone has blazed this trail for you."

New Membership Log-In Debuted in May

As of May 16, 2011, the Arizona Trail Association website implemented a new membership system. The old system used a single common password for all members. The new system uses a standard login method with a user name and password created by each member. This will help the ATA office staff to more efficiently handle memberships by automating much of the process.

It provides a more user-friendly experience to access the various members-only benefits on our website. Membership benefits include free online access to indispensable map and GPS data, the databook, loop trails information and the 16 Pocket Maps.

For more information and instructions on how to use these new features, go to our new membership/login system info page at: www.aztrail.org/membership_info.html

--David Babcock, webmaster



Shawn Redfield Selected as Trail Boss

Shawn Redfield assumed the duties of the newly created Arizona Trail Director position in May. He will work closely with the Executive Director and the Regional Stewards on all aspects of the trail and the trail experience. Shawn retired from the Department of the Interior in January 2010 and hiked the AZT the following spring. He has worked on several AZT events, including the Close the Gap project in the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff (left).

www.aztrail.org
for latest information
and calendar updates

Help Wanted: Arizona Trail Stewards

The Arizona National Scenic Trail exists through the hard work of dedicated, ambitious men, women and kids who got up off their duffs and made it happen! It needs a few more of these special people to maintain and improve it. You wouldn't think a 3-foot wide path could require so much nurturing, but it takes a bunch when it's 800 miles long. The 43 passages are being divided into smaller, more manageable sections for maintenance, so more stewards are needed.

Stewards are the backbone of the trail. They assume responsibility for keeping their segment of the trail in good shape, be it repairing the tread, chopping back the brush, building water management devices, or just doing whatever it takes.

But they don't do it alone; the AZT Association has the tools, expertise and resources to help stewards make it happen. They also rely on, and work closely with, land management agency staff. Successful stewards maintain their sections in a variety of ways—as an ongoing family activity, outings for a group of active friends or publicly advertised trail events. It's a big—but not overwhelming job—just ask the corps of current stewards.

If you think you may be interested in taking on a piece of Arizona's National Scenic Trail, contact one of the Regional Stewards listed below.



South (Mexico to American Flag TH – Passages 1-12) -
Quentin Lewton, chiefsteward_south@aztrail.org

Sonoran Desert (American Flag TH to Gila River – Passages 13-15) -
Anna Pfender, chiefsteward_sonoran@aztrail.org

Central (Gila River to Mogollon Rim – Passages 16-27) -
John Rendall, chiefsteward_central@aztrail.org

North (Mogollon Rim to Utah – Passages 28-43) -
Gary Hohner, chiefsteward_north@aztrail.org

Black Hills Reroute

John Rendall

The 10.5 mile reroute on the Black Hills (Passage14A) is near completion and is officially open. A one mile section still awaits construction, but it is passable and well signed with pin flags. Another mile of cleared corridor immediately following the flagged area needs some tread work, benching, and signage. These will be completed after the summer monsoon.

The reroute offers a much greater wilderness experience for all users and totally eliminates the nine-mile-long pipeline route along with the 2.5 mile hike down Bloodsucker Wash. Instead, the new trail takes you through the high desert for a few miles and then up and over the Black Hills Ridgeline. This allows wonderful 360 degree views of the Sonoran Desert to the west, the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro River to the east, the Pinals and Superstitions to the north, and the Santa Catalina (Mt. Lemmon) and Rincon ranges to the south.

ATA members can log-in and access both a GPX file or text file for the new route on the ATA website at <http://www.aztrail.org/membership/login.php> .



A hiker is one of the first to enjoy newly-constructed trail along the new Black Hills segment reroute north of Oracle. The rolling desert pathway passes eerie cristate saguaros and five-headed barrel cacti.



Truly vast vistas stretch in every direction.

Photo: Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona (VOAz)

www.aztrail.org for latest information and calendar updates

Summer Trail Work Events

June 25-26 - San Francisco Peaks, "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail"

Join us to finish the AZT this season. ATA provides lunch on Saturday. Social hour/potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Camping available. Work location is just outside of Flagstaff on the S.F. Peaks passage of the AZT. Location, time and directions provided later to those on the reservation list. To sign up contact Gary or Gay Hohner at sghohner@cox.net.

July 30 - Mt. Elden, Little Elden Trail Restoration

Please join AZ Trail Stewards Neil Weintraub of Northern AZ Trail Runners and Anthony Quintile of Flagstaff Biking in a trail restoration project.

The Schultz Fire did extensive damage last year to Segment 32B of the AZ Trail between Sandy Seep and Schultz Pass. Lunch provided for those on reservation list. Location, schedule and directions will be provided later. To sign up contact Gary or Gay Hohner at sghohner@cox.net.

August 13-14 - Coconino Rim

Join me, Tom Coulson, in trail maintenance on this section of the Arizona Trail south of Grandview Lookout Tower near the Grand Canyon. This will be trail MAINTENANCE only. Great views and dispersed camping in National Forest. We'll remove lots of pinecones, pine needles and rocks along with the occasional downed tree. On Saturday we start at 9 AM and on Sunday we work until noon. Please contact me at aztrailhiker@aol.com or 480-326-0459 around August 1 and I'll provide directions to work site. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you on this beautiful section of the trail!

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



Arizona Trail Association
PO Box 36736
Phoenix, Az 85067

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Become an Arizona Trail Member - Build a Legacy!

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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Trail Helper \$30
- Trail Hand \$50
- Trail Builder \$100
- Trail Sentry \$250
- Trail Blazer \$500
- Trail Guardian \$1000
- Above and Beyond \$1000 plus
- New Membership Renewal
- Please save paper and deliver my newsletter online.
- Gift Membership from:

Send only an email receipt, save the postage for the Trail.

Membership forms and dues payment also available online:
<http://www.aztrail.org/membership/join.html>
 The Arizona Trail Association is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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
 PO Box 36736
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