In order to keep up with technological advances in mapping and to meet the demands of trail users who have been requesting a navigational smartphone application over the past few years, the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) is proud to announce the availability of the Arizona Trail App. It is undoubtedly the most comprehensive navigational resource we have ever developed and is available now through iTunes and the Google Play Store. For anyone with a smartphone, this will likely change the way you hike, run and ride on the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Working with talented individuals from Guthook’s Guides and High Sierra Attitude, the ATA has dedicated considerable time and talent to make sure this app has the most relevant and accurate information available. The app includes just about everything a trail user would ever want to know, including water sources, trailheads, road crossings, and thousands of waypoints to help you navigate. Think of it as the data book, water source data book, topo maps, GPS tracks, interactive map and photo gallery all rolled into a single resource. And if you’re already carrying your smartphone on the trail (for its camera, compass and other functions), this comprehensive resource is weightless.

One of the greatest features of the app is that no mobile or internet service is required to use it after the initial setup. So if you’re concerned about what happens when you don’t have a cell phone signal, no worries. Some of the other features include:

- GPS-enabled map of the Arizona Trail with waypoints
- Offline topo maps, satellite imagery, and photographs
- More than 1,100 waypoints along or near the trail
- Detail page for each waypoint
- Elevation profile with waypoints
- GPS-enabled data book listing of all waypoints
- Comprehensive water information
- Complete gateway community and resupply information
- Trailhead information
- Text or email your location

Some of the waypoints we have integrated into the app include:

- Water sources (on-trail and off-trail)
- Trailheads and parking areas
- Resupply towns and services
- Trail junctions
- Road crossings
- Fences, gates, powerlines, toilets
- Other landmarks and points of interest

There is a free demo of the app for everyone to enjoy, which includes the 36-mile San Francisco Peaks Passage of the Arizona Trail near Flagstaff. The entire 800-mile Arizona Trail App is available as an in-app purchase for only $9.99. Just search the App Store for “Arizona Trail.”

While there will always be trail users who prefer paper maps, we are confident that anyone who uses a handheld GPS device or who has experimented with apps on their smartphone will absolutely love this new product. When you first use the app, there is a helpful hints guide that briefly explains some of the features and how to use them to get the information you need. You can also change the background image to display either a topographic map or satellite imagery.

A portion of the proceeds from app sales comes back to the ATA so we can continue maintaining and protecting the Arizona Trail. Be among the first to install and test the app, and let us know what you think.

A Grand Canyon-sized “thank you” to everyone involved in the development of the Arizona Trail App, including Paul and Alice Bodnar of High Sierra Attitude, LLC and Ryan Linn of Guthook Hikes. The ATA’s GIS Director, Vice President of Trail Operations, Gateway Community Liaison and numerous photographers also contributed greatly to the success of this project.
Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

It has been a beautiful summer throughout Arizona, with numerous trail work events happening in the higher elevations and healthy amounts of rain replenishing natural water sources all along the Arizona Trail. We anticipate ideal conditions for the thru-hikers and riders beginning their 800-mile south-bound journey within the next few months.

I sincerely hope you’re able to join us for Arizona Trail Day in Flagstaff’s Buffalo Park on Saturday, September 12. This is the single largest gathering of Arizona Trail friends, with immediate access to the AZT’s Passage 33 and incredible views of the San Francisco Peaks. Buffalo Park is also home to a wonderful memorial to Dale Shewalter, the father of the Arizona Trail. Arizona Trail Day is a big fiesta in appreciation of our members, volunteers and friends that make the Arizona Trail community so special. More information on the event is on page 11.

We’re also excited to be able to present the Arizona premiere of the film Unbranded at Flagstaff’s Orpheum Theater on Sunday, September 13. Unbranded is an inspiring documentary following four men as they ride wild mustangs over 3,000 miles from Mexico to Canada, including the length of the AZT. The epic adventure film will hit theaters throughout America later in September, but this is the first place you’ll be able to experience it in Arizona, and proceeds from the Flagstaff screening benefit the Arizona Trail Association. Get your tickets early at www.aztrail.org as we expect the show to sell out.

Thank you for your continued support of the Arizona Trail Association and your enthusiasm for the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Nelson
Executive Director

To Print or Not to Print?

Want to receive the Arizona Trail News by email instead?

Send us an email at ata@aztrail.org and we’ll email directions on how to read the full-color version of the newsletter online. The “paperless” option saves ATA printing and postage expenses so we can direct more resources toward the trail.
LAKEVIEW CONNECTOR VOLUNTEER VACATION
Another Arizona Trail Association Success Story
by Wendy Lotze

There’s this great viewpoint on the new Lakeview Connector Trail. Only a handful of people know about it, because until very recently the connector trail didn’t exist. As the trees part you get an inspiring view of the gleaming line of Upper Lake Mary, the forested edge of Anderson Mesa and the smooth strip of blacktop along Lake Mary Road far below. It’s a reward in itself, and an invitation to explore even further for those who were maybe thinking of just a short stroll in the forest.

Only a handful of people know about because until very recently, the connector trail didn’t exist. It’s been 12 years since the 3/4-mile trail between Lakeview Campground and the Arizona Trail on Anderson Mesa was originally scouted, however as often happens, budgets and time constraints stymied the project. In May of 2012, Passage 30e Stewards Melvin & Marlene Betani and Regional Steward Andrea Michaels identified the connector as a valuable access point for this very popular passage, realizing that it would create new loop opportunities and open the AZT to those staying at the popular campground. They began to work with Sean Murphy with the Flagstaff Ranger District to identify a route down the steep, rugged, volcanic slope. It was clear that building the trail in this area would be a substantial challenge, both in terms of expertise and the amount of labor required.

In 2013, Mary Ellen Mylrea recognized the value of trail access in the area and agreed to make a significant donation to jumpstart the project. Her initial contribution was critical to raising the rest of the funds needed to build the more technically complicated pieces of the trail, as well as support the volunteer effort. Thanks to her generosity, construction started in March of 2014 with Arizona Conservation Corps building the climbing turns in the steepest portion of the alignment. Then, in the summer of that year, the Betanis hosted two hugely successful volunteer work events to build the eastern and western portions of the trail. As anyone who attended these events knows well, the Betanis know how to take care of volunteers, and the participants repaid them by accomplishing amazing things!

Starting on Memorial Day of this year, a group of volunteers from the American Hiking Society’s Volunteer Vacations program spent four days working to connect the switchbacks built the year before. These six volunteers, joined by Shawn Murphy from Warrior Hike and Mark Loseth from American Conservation Experience, cleared massive boulders through the basalt band and built rock retaining features along nearly a quarter-mile of the trail. The Betanis hosted another volunteer event the following weekend, and thanks to the hard work of all of the participants the tread was finished early on Sunday. The Betanis have also established a great relationship with the campground hosts at Lakeview, who joined in the potluck dinner on Saturday night – without their cooperation, these events would not have been such a success.

Now, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our stewards, the generosity of a donor, and our amazing Arizona Trail Volunteers that beautiful vista is ready to be discovered by many more people. The Lakeview Connector Trail turned out to be more than a quick way to get to the AZT – it’s a lovely piece of trail itself and a great resource to AZT users and campground guests alike. If you’re in the area, don’t miss it!

Wendy Lotze is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Arizona Trail Association. She can be reached at volunteer@aztrail.org.

ATA Board Member Ambika Balasubramaniam enjoys the amazing view of Lake Mary from the Lakeview Connector Trail.

Just a few of the volunteers that helped complete the Lakeview Connector Trail this summer.

“Thank you so much for all you taught us about trails, trail making, tool use, and thank you for organizing the hike down the Grand Canyon! It was a fitting ending to a great week! Your state is absolutely gorgeous and I will definitely be back! I will make sure I spread the word about hiking the Arizona Trail and volunteering for the ATA.” – Marie-Claire Ribeill, American Hiking Society Volunteer
Natural Restorations Cleans up the Arizona Trail
by Nicole Corey

On June 13, Natural Restorations partnered with the Coconino National Forest and the Arizona Trail Association to clean up the trash scattered around the Arizona Trail near Walnut Canyon (Passage 32a). Volunteers gathered early in the morning and spread out to cover a wide area, picking up as much trash as possible in five hours. We removed a discarded refrigerator, mattresses, a headboard, a camper shell, old tires, scattered trash, and much more to fill a roll-off dumpster donated by the City of Flagstaff Dump.

Volunteers encountered a few mountain bikers and hikers along the Arizona Trail during the cleanup and enjoyed sharing immediate results of our clean-up efforts with individuals and groups using the Arizona Trail.

Natural Restorations works throughout Arizona removing trash, graffiti and anything foreign to the environment from natural areas. We host several cleanups a year when restoration sites are safe for volunteers to participate. When areas are too hazardous or remote for volunteers, we have crews dedicated to restorations. Natural Restorations is environmentally conscious and approaches every restoration with an objective to leave as minimal a footprint as possible.

We are planning to return to Passage 32a on August 15 to remove several couches and other trash they were unable to remove during our previous effort. If you would like to volunteer with Natural Restorations, please contact me at contact@naturalrestorations.org. And if you can’t make this event, stay in touch. We have many projects planned throughout the year.

The Arizona Trail Association is the non-profit fiscal sponsor for Natural Restorations, ensuring that all donations to Natural Restorations are 100% tax deductible. Donations are encouraged to help with cleanup supplies, gear and logistical expenses. To donate online, please visit www.naturalrestorations.org. With your help, Natural Restorations can continue restoring natural areas across the state.

What Volunteers Are Saying About Natural Restorations

“I never thought I would be thanking someone for allowing me to pick up trash in the woods. Hands down one of the most fulfilling experiences I have ever had!”
- Rick Ketcherside

“I was really impressed by the amount of junk we removed. The amount of trash picked up and still left behind is shocking. I hope that through Natural Restorations people who love the outdoors in Arizona will lend a hand in cleaning it up.”
- Julie Boston

“Thank you for your efforts in putting this event together! Arizona National Scenic Trail users as well as locals that recreate in this area are the beneficiaries.”
- Bruce Belman

“Saturday was a very fulfilling day. There was a lot of random trash like broken bottles, cans, mattresses, tires, and even a fridge! It’s maddening but uplifting as well. The frustration comes from seeing and wondering why people think it’s okay to drop their trash wherever they see fit. I’m glad Natural Restorations exists.”
- Shawna Ketcherside
In February and March of 2015, American Conservation Experience (ACE) was hired by the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department to maintain priority sections of Passage 14 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail, from the Tiger Mine Trailhead to Antelope Tank. Known as the Black Hills Passage, the area contains classic desert flora, fauna, and weather patterns. The vegetation is sparse, providing little canopy for rain interception. Rain also tends to fall heavily for short periods, making trail erosion due to these factors a concern and priority.

The Black Hills Passage has become a destination mountain biking area for cyclists looking for long distance trail riding opportunities. With the increase in popularity with mountain bikers, another focus of the project was improving the rideability and user experience for all who use the trail. Kent Taylor, Director of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department; Shawn Redfield, Trail Director for the Arizona Trail Association; and Don Washco, Regional Steward, identified three priority locations needing erosion control and mitigation work and user experience improvements for the ACE crews to complete.

For the trail to exist sustainably, any water that reaches the trail needs to shed away from the trail as immediately as possible. Where the water sheds from the trail, whether it is from tread out slope or grade reversals, the water tends to speed up and has the potential to cause erosion. Drainage in the form of grade dips, out sloping and grade reversals were constructed to improve sustainability. Rock armoring was used to protect the trail tread and allow the water to shed from the trail without causing excess erosion.

In places where the trail had become narrow or hard to follow, the crew reinstalled and widened the tread. The crew also improved many climbing turns and switchbacks by increasing the turning radius and installing drainage above and below the turns. The increased radius improves rideability and safety for equestrians and mountain bikers while the drainage protects the structures. Brushing and loose rock removal was also performed along the priority sections to provide a clear and open trail corridor.

The majority of funding for this project was from a Recreational Trail Program grant administered through Arizona State Parks, and Pinal County covered the costs associated with environmental studies in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition to the 1,924 hours contributed from the ACE crews, AmeriCorps Volunteers donated 1,684 hours—a $32,000 value! The next time you’re out on Passage 14, take a moment to appreciate the young men and women who spent 16 days working hard to improve this portion of the Arizona Trail.

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**Results and Accomplishments**

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<th>Total Trail Miles:</th>
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<td>Water Bars Repaired:</td>
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It’s that time of year again: Triple digits hit the Valley, pools are full of people, and nobody ventures far from the A/C. But this is also a perfect time to venture out on the Arizona Trail to escape the urban heat.

Explore the Kaibab Plateau
The Grand Canyon is one of seven Natural Wonders of the World and there’s a reason for that: 277 miles of the Earth’s geologic history is carved out by the Colorado River, showcasing expansive views that your eyes almost won’t believe. The South Rim is frequented year-round by tourists from all over the world. But it’s the wild and secluded North Rim on the Kaibab Plateau that draws the adventurous with its dense forests, expansive meadows and wandering bison.

Ranging from 7,000-9,000 feet in elevation, passages 39, 40, and 42 are ideal AZT hikes this time of year on the North Rim. Passage 39, the shortest of the three, begins at the North Kaibab Trailhead and heads north for about 13 miles through Harvey Meadow and the Widforss Trailhead. After crossing Highway 67, the trail peaks and drops before reaching the Grand Canyon National Park entrance. You can continue on the trail for about a mile or so until it ends at the park boundary. You and your furry four-legged friend are sure to enjoy this easy trail.

Passage 40 is a bit longer at 21 miles and begins at the park boundary. Cross-rigid ridges, gaze upon expanses of dense forest, and take shade under aspen groves. Towards the end, the trail parallels Highway 67 and then climbs Telephone Hill before it stops at the intersection of FR 241. This is another great easy segment of trail with some extra miles for a good workout at high elevation.

Beginning at the Orderville Canyon Trailhead on Highway 89A, Passage 42 crosses the highway to parallel with FR 249. After passing Summit Valley, it ends at Winter Road. Keep your eyes out for wildlife, including black bears, Kaibab squirrels, and northern goshawks.

Spirit of the San Francisco Peaks
If you don’t want to drive too far for cooler weather, the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff are a relatively short drive from southern and central Arizona. The highest peak is Mt. Humphreys at over 12,600 feet. Covered in ferns, pine trees and aspens, the peaks provide a beautiful and serene experience. Topping out at 36 miles, Passage 34 starts at Schultz Pass and ends at Cedar Ranch. Because of sharp elevation changes, this hike is rated moderate. At times, water can be found at the Schultz, Alfa Fia, Kelly, and East Cedar tanks. This passage can easily made shorter since many roads intersect the trail, including Snowbowl Road and Forest Roads 418 and 514.

Head Down South
Traveling north isn’t the only way to escape the heat; Oracle Ridge and the Huachucas Mountains offer high elevation adventures. Oracle Ridge (Passage 12) is atop the Santa Catalina Mountains and follows a north-facing ridge down toward Oracle. This remote and arduous downhill journey begins near the mountain community of Summerhaven and travels 13 miles until you reach the American Flag Trailhead near the town of Oracle.

Passage 1 in the Huachuca Mountains is the gateway to the AZT, and at 9,000 feet, provides a cooler southern destination. Stretching for 22 miles from the Mexico border to Parker Canyon Lake, Passage 1 starts at the Montezuma Pass. Be prepared for strenuous ascents and wilderness. Despite
being in Southern Arizona, this trail is full of towering pines, trickling creeks, and wildflowers. Since this is designated wilderness, no mountain bikes are allowed on the trail.

Visit the ATAs website for more information on these and other passages: www.aztrail.org/passages/passage.php.

While on the trail, please follow the seven Leave No Trace principles:
• Plan ahead and prepare
• Travel and camp on durable surfaces
• Dispose of waste properly
• Leave what you find
• Minimize campfire impacts
• Respect wildlife
• Be considerate of others

And don’t forget: We’re collecting “trail values” through September for the U.S. Forest Service. If you see anything on the trail that is unique to AZT, ranging from fantastic views to interesting wildlife, make a note of its location, take a photo, then email your findings to trailvalues@aztrail.org or visit www.aztrail.org/trail_values.html for more information. With your help, we can preserve and protect the AZT for years to come.

Happy trails to you!

How to Stay Safe During Wildfire Season
It’s summer in Arizona, and unfortunately, wildfires are all too real. But we know that’s not going to stop you from hitting the AZT. To keep you and Arizona’s environment safe, please follow these tips:

Before you go
1. Check the weather. Know the conditions of the area you’ll be hiking, riding or camping in. When spending time outdoors, advance preparation is vital.
2. Find out if there’s a fire in the area. You can always refer to the ATAs homepage (www.aztrail.org) or the Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention website (www.wildlandfire.az.gov) or call 1-877-864-6985 for fire alerts and restrictions. If there is a fire, wait about a week after it’s completely extinguished to avoid smoky air.
3. Pack your survival and first aid kits. You never know what can happen while on the trail.
4. Tell someone (or two) where you are going. And be specific: trail passage, direction, duration. Don’t be like that guy in 127 Hours.
5. Bring your cell phone. Don’t worry; you can put it on vibrate while you’re communing with nature.
6. BRING LOTS OF FLUIDS! We can’t stress this enough. Hiking in the summer will take a toll on your body, no matter the elevation or temperature you’re in. Your body will thank you if you hydrate before, during, and after your hike. Water alone won’t do the trick, so drink plenty of electrolytes and eat salty foods.

And if you must have a fire…
Like Smokey the Bear says, “only YOU can prevent wildfires.” When building a campfire, make sure it is downwind of your tent, within an existing fire ring, and ensure at least five feet of clearance from its surroundings. Keep a large bucket of water nearby just in case. When done roasting your marshmallows, douse the fire, stir it, and then douse again. If it is cool to the touch, it is extinguished. Find more tips from Smokey the Bear here: www.smokeybear.com/campfire-safety.asp.

With a little preparation and wildfire know-how, you can safely visit the AZT this summer. And while you’re enjoying Mother Nature, don’t forget to also protect her; please report wildfires by dialing 911.
Normally, summer is a slow season for the ATAs Seeds of Stewardship program. Since all of our school groups disband for the summer our program has always taken a hiatus during the warm months. But not this year! Coordinators Rebecca Patterson-Markowitz and Sabrina Carlson have been busy coordinating outings on the Arizona Trail and helping to inspire young people to become the next generation of stewards of the AZT and other wild lands throughout Arizona.

Southern Arizona
Working with leaders from the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, the Seeds of Stewardship program is providing innovative summer programming for the students in the Patagonia and Mountain Empire region. Most of these outings focus on the creative arts in the outdoors, including drawing, photography, poetry and more.

On a recent outing with drawing as an emphasis, students hiked along the AZT from the Harshaw Road Trailhead just a short drive away from the youth center’s front door. Only three of the students had even heard of the Arizona Trail before the outing; so the map at the trailhead gave them an opportunity to look at Passage 2 which leads straight into the center of their town. After a short walk they settled in to the silence of the desert with their sketchbooks, pencils, and drawings.

This kind of drawing from observation insists that the participant’s eyes constantly return to the scene in front of them, instead of getting stuck on the page. This slow and consistent attention can create a kind of intimacy with the subject of the drawing. Each student produced a beautiful original work of art.

Northern Arizona
From June 8-13, five young teens and three adult leaders experienced the adventure of a lifetime when they mountain biked along the Arizona Trail between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon. This “Peaks to Park” summer adventure attracted participants from Mesa, Payson and Flagstaff. Their adventure began in the Coconino National Forest at Schultz Tank and ended inside one of the natural wonders of the world.

The group biked and hiked approximately 25-30 miles per day along the San Francisco Peaks Passage, across the Babbitt Ranch, and along the Coconino Rim. They camped in the forest each night, encountered few humans along the way, and enjoyed some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere in the West. Unexpected summer storms added serious challenge to their already arduous endeavor, turning the roads in the Kaibab National Forest into a muddy mess.

When the mud prevented them from riding any further, they pushed their bikes through the peanut butter-like soil. When they could no longer push their bikes, they abandoned them in the forest and walked over four miles to their campsite near Grandview Lookout Tower. They retrieved their bikes the next day, and spent the remainder of their time hiking the trails inside Grand Canyon National Park and visiting the Arizona Trail display within the National Geographic Visit Center in Tusayan.

These summertime adventures are made available at no cost to the participants, thanks to a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. To read more detailed reports and to see photos from all of the Seeds of Stewardship outings, please visit www.aztrail.org/stewardship/seeds.html.
Upcoming Training Sessions for Volunteers

September 19-20 - Flagstaff  October 17-18 - Patagonia

Are you interested in learning more about properly monitoring, maintaining and constructing trails? Are you a steward of the Arizona Trail or are you interested in helping out with trail projects? Do you like to get your hands dirty while learning valuable skills at the same time? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then make your reservations today for the upcoming trail trainings!

This collaboration between the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) and American Conservation Experience (ACE) is intended to teach valuable skills to volunteers, including those who have been involved in trail projects for many years. Drawing upon thousands of hours on the trail and in the classroom, including some of the most daunting trail projects you can imagine, ACE staff will inspire, educate, and give you the skills you need to be an effective steward and trail volunteer.

From learning more about arid lands hydrology and how it relates to trail sustainability, to building rock check dams and realigning portions of poorly built trail, these sessions include time-tested techniques and innovative principles. ACE is donating their time and talent to make these trainings a success, so don’t miss out.

Each two-day training will take place entirely outdoors, with a focus on experiential learning. While there will be talks and demonstrations, the instructors have found that classroom time is never as valuable as time on the trail and a PowerPoint is no replacement for a pick mattock. Discussions will also happen around the campfire since participants are encouraged to camp together and immerse themselves in the experience for the weekend.

Registration for the two-day trainings is only $125 per person and includes a Trail Assessment Handbook, four meals, and lots of fun! Space is limited so please register today by going online to www.aztrail.org/volunteers/training.html.

“I really enjoyed spending a day and a half participating in the training. Now my hiking experiences will never be the same. As a trail steward that’s a good thing. But when I go out for some solo hiking where trail assessment is not the goal, I’ll be doing it anyway. Hopefully I will get over that with time.”

— Jeff Bridge

“Thank so much for having this training. We had a fabulous time! Last year we had the pleasure of a bit of training from Matt Roberts and jumped at this chance to spend more time with anyone from ACE. It was a great review of some of the trail assessment skills we learned last year, plus more about how to fix problems and then of course, the real key, putting it into practice.”

— Elizabeth Butler
REI Supports the Arizona Trail

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) is excited to announce a recent grant award from the Paradise Valley and Tempe REI stores. REI has been a long-time supporter of the ATA and this donation will make a few important trail projects possible within the next year. REI approved the $25,000 grant request to fund a portion of three big projects in the Tonto National Forest.

Project #1
Four Peaks Fire Recovery
Four Peaks (Passage 20) on the Tonto National Forest/Four Peaks Wilderness

In July of 2014, the Browns Fire burned over 1,000 acres of forest and a three-mile segment of the Arizona Trail south of the popular Pigeon Springs Trailhead. The erosion that followed was significant. Rehabilitation work on the trail was attempted in autumn of last year, however much work is needed to bring this passage up to National Scenic Trail standards, including trail widening, building of rock walls for soil stabilization, improved drainage, and rebuilding switchbacks to improve overall sustainability of the trail.

Project #2
Boulder Canyon Realignment
Pine Mountain (Passage 21) on the Tonto National Forest

Over the past five years, ATA volunteers and trail stewards have worked diligently to transform Passage 21 from an inaccessible and unpleasant trail experience to its current condition. The reputation of the AZT’s Pine Mountain Passage from “forgettable” to bucket-list destination is incredible. Only one segment remains in desperate need of help to bring this entire passage up to National Scenic Trail standards: Boulder Canyon. Originally built by USFS crews, the trail follows a direct path downhill through rugged terrain, making it an eroded mess that is impossible to maintain. The ATA has plans to realign a major portion of the AZT through this canyon. Work includes building new trail, adding switchbacks, and significant rock work to stabilize the tread, in addition to closing and rehabilitating the current trail alignment.

Project #3
Mt. Peeley Trailhead Signs
Saddle Mountain (Passage 22) on the Tonto National Forest/ Mazarzal Wilderness

This scenic area near Mt. Peeley has been among the all-time favorites of Arizona Trail thru-hikers and locals alike, and despite losing over 18,000 acres of forest to a wildfire in 2012 it is well on its way to recovery. Now that the trail has been rebuilt (almost 4,000 feet of new trail) and is receiving visitation, the ATA would like to install an interpretive sign near the trailhead. This sign includes a full-color map of the area to assist with navigation and appreciation, demonstrate Leave No Trace ethics, and helps make this trailhead something that trail users and land managers can be proud of.

The sign was designed, fabricated and installed earlier this summer.

If you are an REI member, please let the manager within your local store know how much you appreciate their support of the ATA and the Arizona Trail. Grants like this help transform our dreams into reality.

AZT Adirondack Chair Raffle

Buy your raffle tickets today for an opportunity to win a hand-painted Adirondack chair that celebrates the beauty and biodiversity of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The chair was designed and painted by Jody Rykema, a Pioneer Title Agency Coconino County Title Office employee.

Jody has been a decorative painter for several years and has painted several Adirondack chairs, always donating them to non-profit organizations for fundraising events.

As part of the Pioneer Title Agency’s “Take A Hike” 30th anniversary celebration Jody adopted Passage 32 and did her part by hiking the passage earlier this year. She was asked to also assist in raising funds for the ATA by painting a chair that captures the essence of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. Don’t miss this opportunity to win this one-of-a-kind chair! It will look ideal on your deck or in your home. The drawing will be held after the Arizona Trail Day event in Flagstaff on September 12.

Raffle tickets are only $5 each or 5 for $20 and are available for sale through the ATA website:
www.aztrail.org/raffle/

All proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets benefits the ATA and our mission to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
ARIZONA TRAIL DAY
BUFFALO PARK FREE 10AM – 2PM

CELEBRATE THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL IN FLAGSTAFF!

LIVE MUSIC AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Free maps, information, and chances to win great outdoor gear

Hike, Bike or Ride the AZT

12pm ceremony in honor of Dale Shewalter, the “Father of the Arizona Trail”

Beer Garden featuring locally made beer from Wanderlust Brewery

AZT Gear Swap – bring your hiking, camping, mountain biking and equestrian gear to buy, sell or trade.

Geocaching activities

Monster truck ambulance from Guardian Medical Transport

Food by The McMillan Bar and Kitchen

Hand-only CPR demonstration

..AND MUCH MORE!

Arizona Trail Association
Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!

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Southwest Trekking
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc
Summit Hut
Sunnyside Medicenter, P.C.
THAT Brewery
The Wildland Trekking Co.
Tierra Antigua Realty
Trans-Canyon Shuttle
Tucson Saddle Club
United States Forest Service
We Cook Pizza & Pasta
Westwind Solar Electric, Inc.
Wheeler Foundation