



Arizona Trail News

News and Information from the Arizona Trail Association
Summer 2017 | Volume 25, No. 2

Mazatzal Restoration Project

by Matthew J. Nelson

Of all the trail projects the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) has undertaken over the past five years, none are as impressive as the Mazatzal Restoration Project.

With support from the Tonto, Prescott and Coronado National Forests, American Conservation Experience, Arizona Conservation Corps, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, and the dedication of over 100 volunteers, we are proud to announce that the 38 miles of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) through the Mazatzal Wilderness has been transformed.

Before 2016, this remote segment of the AZT received infrequent volunteer maintenance due to its relative inaccessibility and few visitors due to its degrading trail conditions and reputation within the hiking community as a “scary bushwhack.” In addition, numerous forest fires in the Mazatzal Mountains over the past decade caused significant deadfall and erosion. The fact that the AZT hadn’t been entirely consumed by Nature can be attributed to the hard work of a few dedicated ATA volunteers – Joe and John – who’ve probably spent more time in this mountain range with saws and loppers than anyone alive.

Funds from the National Forest Foundation were matched by Pioneer Title Agency and ATA donors like you to support conservation corps work within priority project areas, with volunteer work events filling in the gaps. One of these events was a weeklong Volunteer Vacation that saw nine hearty souls clearing logs and beating back thick manzanita, oak and locust overgrowth along six miles of trail south of Horse Camp Seep.

Momentum for trail restoration convinced the Tonto National Forest to dedicate funds to support trail restoration on the AZT as well as its connector trails. With access to

the heart of the Mazatzals presenting one of the biggest logistical hurdles, the Tonto funded American Conservation Experience (ACE) to clear the Barnhardt Trail, which provides access from a trailhead located near Hwy 87 to the Mazatzal Divide. This work was necessary in order to allow safe passage of packstock to deliver food, water, tools and supplies for backcountry hitches. Once the Barnhardt Trail was passable, ACE was put to work for 7 hitches (one hitch = 80 hours of labor).

Then, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded five hitches of an Arizona Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Crew consisting of Native American youth to work on these connector trails: Deer Creek, Barnhardt, City Creek, Y Bar, and Two Bar Ridge. Later, the Tonto National Forest received funding from 21st Century Service Corps (21CSC) for two more hitches of Arizona Conservation Corps.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the ATA wrangled volunteers to help on various segments of the project area through organized trail work days. Some were small groups of backpackers spending three days in the field while others were

afternoon events engaging local Boy Scouts. In all, approximately 50 conservation corpsmembers contributed 21 weeks of work in support of the project, and volunteers contributed almost 3,000 hours of service.

What was once an overgrown and barely discernable route through a remote wilderness area is now a path that lives up to its designation as a National Scenic Trail. It no longer requires a GPS device to find the tread and a machete to clear the way, and is now a possibility for equestrians. Nearly 200 downed trees were removed from the AZT during the course of this project, and 73 drainage features were improved or added. Most noticeable, however, is the amount of vegetation that was removed from the corridor.

The Mazatzal Mountains will always be wild and rugged—the longest stretch of designated wilderness anywhere along the AZT—but thanks to the support of many valuable partners, now there is a clear path through. If you’ve never been, plan a backpacking trip this autumn. There are few stretches of the AZT as unforgettable as the 36 miles between Mount Peeley and the East Verde River.



Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of individuals and the financial support of many organizations, agencies and donors, the Mazatzal Mountains Passage has been transformed.
Larry Simkins Photo

Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

Summer is a magnificent season. For the Tohono O'odham of southern Arizona, mid-July marks the New Year. It's a time of renewal and celebration, with ruby-red saguaro fruits ripening atop tall cacti and massive cumulous clouds billowing over the mountaintops. Summer rains have extinguished many of the fires plaguing the state, but the lightning that comes with the monsoon season is sure to start a few more blazes. The Arizona Trail was scorched by four fires this year, with the most significant damage occurring along Passage 10 (Redington Pass) as a result of the Burro Fire. Over four miles of the AZT were burned between Redington Road and The Lake, and most of the wooden water bars that helped control erosion were incinerated – leaving behind exposed rebar. We are currently working with the Coronado National Forest to develop a plan to repair the trail.

Recently, the ATA received additional financial support from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to further our Trail Operations and Seeds of Stewardship programs. Our federal agency partners appreciate the great things the ATA and our volunteers accomplish each year, and they are committed to obligating federal funds to support our mission. Since these funds need to be spent before the end of the year we are looking forward to our busiest field season in recent history. The good news is that significant improvements are going to be made to the AZT and we'll be able to introduce more youth to the outdoors than ever before. The not-so-good news is that everyone is bracing for a massive cut to trails funding in 2018. We are expecting a 10-20% reduction in funding, and the President's current proposed budget slashes U.S. Forest Service trails funding by over 80%. Even if this budget were to receive approval from Congress, we are confident that ATA stewards and volunteers will be able to maintain the AZT. However, funding our operations and programs could present a serious challenge. The need for local support through membership and donations will become increasingly important.

Each year, the ATA elects one or more members to our Board of Directors. Generally speaking, the Board is composed of individuals who can put forth the effort to sustain and grow a viable trail organization. Helpful backgrounds include experience on other nonprofit boards, in fundraising, natural and cultural resource management, public relations, human resources, community development, and the law. The primary requirement for being a successful Board Member, however, is a love for the Arizona Trail. The Board meets three times per year, and helps govern the organization and guide its staff to fulfill our mission to protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land. Each seat is for one three-year term and Board Members are asked to commit to giving or raising at least \$500 to support the organization. If you have the time and interest in serving on the ATA Board of Directors, please send a letter of interest to ata@aztrail.org.

Please join us for the biggest celebration of the year when Arizona Trail Day returns to Flagstaff on Saturday, September 9. This four-hour celebration in Buffalo Park brings together the wonderful people that make the ATA and the AZT so special. Featuring live music, local food and beer, an outdoor expo, engaging presentations and so much more...it won't be complete without you! We enjoy throwing this party each year as a way to thank our members, volunteers, donors and business partners for all you do. Bring a friend and celebrate with us!

May you find many memorable adventures while out on the Arizona Trail this season.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Nelson
Executive Director



The ATA's Shannon Villegas (Marshall) met her now husband on the AZT and had an AZT-themed wedding in May at Oracle State Park.
Sam Alexander/The Tucson Photographer

Arizona Trail Association

Our Mission

To protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

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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Arizona Trail Association

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Brady

Takes a Hike



Brady Maghran, age 17, hiked the entire length of the Arizona National Scenic Trail this spring. *Daren Wallentine Photo*

For the average high school senior, their last year is often filled with stress, parties and big life decisions.

Many young people get overwhelmed with the pressure of applying to colleges, finding a way to fund their education, saying goodbye to friends, and taking the first real step toward answering the often unnerving question of what do I want to be when I grow up? One senior from Oro Valley took a break from all that while raising money for a good cause and still getting school credit by hiking the entire length of the Arizona Trail.

Brady Maghran (trail name: Prom Date), recently graduated from BASIS Oro Valley with High Honors. He explained, "BASIS seniors use the final trimester to complete internships and projects that are then presented to the student body at the end of the school year. While many students accept internships with tech firms or doctors, I hiked the 800-mile Arizona Trail to benefit the local Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). My inspiration came from a boy named Nic, who has Cystic Fibrosis."

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a genetic lung disease that causes a thick buildup of mucus in the lungs, pancreas and other organs. It can lead to numerous life complications, including infertility, lung collapse, and early death. CF is affecting over 300,000 Americans and 700,000 people worldwide. Brady wanted to use his hike to promote awareness for the disease as well as raise funds for the Southern Arizona Chapter of the CFF, the leader in CF care and research.

For this endeavor, Brady was sponsored by Summit Hut and

received months of pre-trip guidance from the Arizona Trail Association and local thru-hikers. Brady's story appeared on the Tucson Morning Blend and KVOA News.

Brady started near the U.S./Mexico border on February 20. Walking northbound with his father on that first day, Brady realized the AZT was no cakewalk. The Huachucas lived up to their reputation and Brady trudged through calf-high snow and biting cold temperatures within his first 10 miles. Things got a little easier once he found his trail legs, making it through a few rough spots in the Rincons and Tortilla Mountains passages. Brady was fortunate enough to have his family and friends hike with him intermittently, and his companions sometimes joined him for up to a week at a time. He was only alone for about three weeks of the entire thru-hike. Even when he did not have a family member nearby, Brady found friends within the thru-hiker community that was out in record numbers this spring.

Brady really enjoyed the amazing biodiversity the trail showcases. "It's amazing how you can wake up one day in one biome and go to bed in a completely different one," he said. He was able to see animals he had never seen before in the wild, and had a memorable encounter with a coatimundi in the Santa Rita Mountains. Being an Arizona native but going to college out of state, Brady also felt it was a great way to wrap up his time in Arizona.

"Some of my highlights along the AZT were the Rincon Mountains, where I didn't see another soul for days, the town of Kearny, and of course, Grand Canyon," he said. "If I could go back and visit any area again, I would go to Bear Spring in the Santa Rita Mountains. It looked as if I was in a different world – the blue-green cliffs of the area towered over me and turned the water a brilliant opaque blue. This is just one of the countless gems hidden in the desert along the AZT."

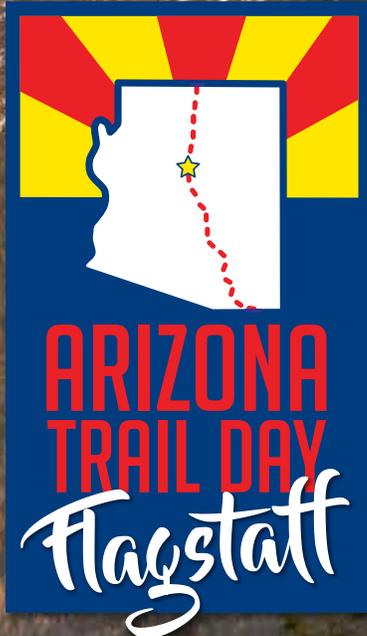
Though Brady took a few days off the trail to take care of some important school and family business (including attending his High School Prom, hence the trail name given to him by other thru-hikers) he was able to reach the Stateline Trailhead on May 7.

Through two different GoFundMe accounts (one for his personal trip expenses and one for the CFF), Brady was able to raise over \$6,000! "I would like to thank everyone for all their support," he said, "especially my friends, family, Summit Hut, the CFF, trail users and the ATA!"

Before he heads off to college, Brady is working as a lifeguard at a YMCA swimming pool and saving money for college. He hopes other young people get inspired to hike the AZT, and encourages everyone to read his blog about his adventures (complete with embarrassing prom photos):

bradymaghbran.wixsite.com/bradytakesahike

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PHOTO: FREE ROAMING PHOTOGRAPHY



No Challenge Too Big

by Matthew J. Nelson

Over the past three years, Arizona Trail Association volunteers have successfully installed 42 gates on the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

These heavy-duty steel “AZT Super Gates” are locally-made, easy to open and close, virtually indestructible, meet the specifications of land management partners and the needs of ranchers, and require very minimal maintenance over time. Equestrians traveling with packstock appreciate the gates, too, as the six-foot-wide berth allows passage for fully-loaded equines. Most importantly, they preserve the non-motorized trail experience that defines the Arizona Trail experience by keeping motorized vehicles off the trail.

Hauling and installing the gates is no small endeavor. They weigh almost 500 lbs. and require 13 60-pound bags of concrete to secure them into place. Since they’re buried below the surface, a jackhammer is often required to break through soil and rocks to dig the trench deep enough. Then there’s the water needed to mix concrete, an assortment of tools for removing the old wire gate; and a bucket of burritos to fuel the volunteers.

For gate installation locations with reasonable vehicle access, we have been able to drive the gates right to the project site. For more remote sites we’ve been able to use the brute strength of wildland firefighters and help from motorized haulers. But when the Bureau of Land Management requested we install a gate along a remote segment of the Arizona Trail in the Gila River Canyons we knew we were in for a serious challenge.

How do we get ¾ of a ton of material into a site that is protected by steep cliffs and a

“Asarco is extremely proud to be able to partner with the Arizona Trail Association on such a project. The Arizona Trail provides a unique Arizona experience to people from all over the world. We are committed to the sustainable development of its resources for the benefit of all Arizonans and all who use copper in their daily lives.”

– Manuel Ramos, CEO,
Grupo México/Asarco



AZT Super Gate installed in a seemingly inaccessible location along Passage 16. ATA Photo

dense mesquite *bosque*, many miles from the nearest road?

Looking at topographic maps, the ATA’s Trail Director realized the Copper Basin Railway followed the Gila River and passed near the gate location. The Copper Basin Railway is private railroad used to haul ore from Asarco’s mines nearby, so the ATA reached out to Asarco to ask, “What are the chances...?” To our delight, they gladly honored our request.

On March 28, ATA volunteers and staff from Copper Basin Railway assembled near Kelvin to load the materials on to the back of a truck and trailer specially equipped with wheel adapters to roll along the tracks. Then, a mini-excavator that was already conducting trail maintenance nearby hauled the materials into position.



How many ATA volunteers does it take to install a super gate in a remote location? As many as we can get! “The Usual Suspects” will never turn down a challenge when it comes to a project on the Arizona Trail. ATA Photo

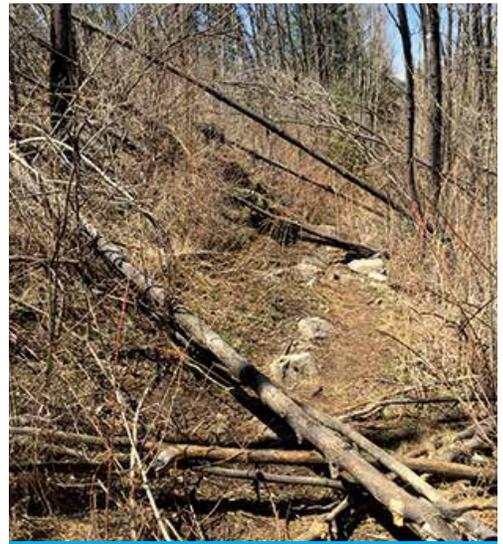
The soil at the gate location appeared to be soft silt, but the silt was just hiding suitcase-size rocks and large tree roots underneath. After a few minutes the digging was going nowhere. A 24-inch relocation encountered the same. It wasn’t that the crew encountered rocks; they encountered ROCK. Just one—bedrock.

The mini-excavator was put to work to dislodge boulders from the first location, and then the volunteer crew formed up the concrete footings and the project proceeded as we had hoped. As fate would have it, a thru-hiker passed by just as the finishing touches were put on the gate.

The next time you pass through an AZT Super Gate, pause for a moment and think about how much effort it may have taken to get it there. The good news is they’re not likely to ever need replacing, at least not this century.

A big thanks to the BLM; Asarco and Copper Basin Railway; Rob for building the gates and driving the mini-excavator; the commitment of stalwart volunteers John, Tom, Lee, David, Bill, Roger, Richard, Rob, Laddie, Scott and Steve; and of course, the vision and leadership of the ATA’s Trail Director, Shawn Redfield.

Grand Improvements in the



If you attempted Passage 1 of the AZT before this spring, trail conditions may have looked like this...but not any longer!

Carol Fontana Photo

Before (left) and after (right) images showing a notorious rocky climb in the heights of the Huachucas. *Carol Fontana Photo*

Passage 1 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) climbs from the grasslands of the U.S./Mexico border to nearly 9,465 feet in the Huachuca Mountains, carving its way along the ridgeline of this rugged range before descending toward Parker Canyon Lake.

Although the “Crest Trail” offers incredible views of the San Rafael Valley and numerous mountain ranges in Sonora, its condition has earned it an intimidating reputation, especially among equestrians. In fact, Lynn Maring—the only person to ride the entire AZT twice on horseback—identified the Huachucas as one of the “nightmare” passages.

Much of this can be attributed to the aftermath of the 2011 Monument Fire, which burned 30,526 acres from south of the border to as far north as Carr Canyon west of Sierra Vista. The erosion and flooding that followed caused damage to trails throughout the Huachuca Mountains, as well as significant damage to the canyons and structures downstream.

Since 2011 there has been an ongoing effort

to keep the Arizona Trail safe and accessible through the Huachucas. We have received numerous reports of hazard trees, constant deadfall across the trail, thick brush, massive erosion, and occasional rock slides which have choked out the trail completely in some areas.

For thru-hikers carrying backpacks this might only be a nuisance, but for equestrians it makes progress unsafe at best. Steep cliffs, eroding tread and a labyrinth of downed trees have resulted in the death of at least two equines. Most thru-riders and segment riders have avoided the mountain range (a signature feature of the AZT) altogether. ATA stewards and USFS staff have managed to keep the route open for foot traffic, but the remote nature of the trail through the Miller Peak Wilderness precluded much of this work needed to bring the trail up to National Scenic Trail standards...until now.

Thanks to funding from the USDA Forest Service Southwest Regional offices, a grant from the Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation, and donations from a variety of saddle clubs and individuals, the Crest Trail has been transformed. As soon as the snow had melted, Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) and AmeriCorps crews dedicated

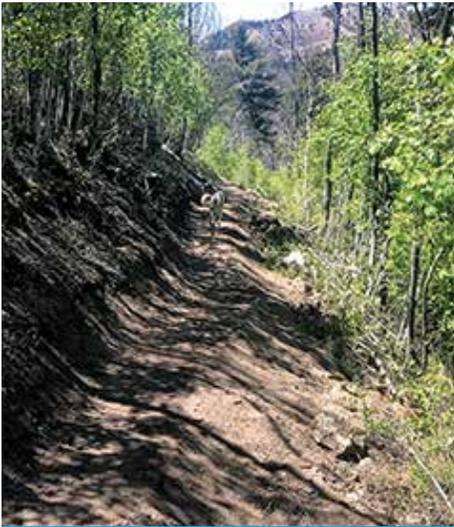
three backcountry project hitches (six weeks) with ATA guidance to rebuild the AZT from the southern wilderness boundary to Bear Saddle. They spent a total of 1,220 project hours; removed 37 downed trees and 30 overhead snags; rebuilt more than 2 miles of trail, including full bench tread repair; installed 10 rock step platforms; and moved or built stone structures around a number of fairly impassable large rock pinch points. The result of their work is incredible.

Carol Fontana, an equestrian thru-rider who originally rode the passage in the Spring of 2016 and reported that her 800-mile adventure nearly ended on the very first day due to her horse falling on a rock slab, recently returned to experience it for herself. She said, “TREMENDOUS improvements have been made to the Crest Trail. The notorious boulder section was so much improved that I thought it was still ahead of me! How your team did it is beyond my comprehension. A lot of work went into this and it is going to stand the test of time. The area with the blowdowns and deadfall that was so difficult last year is now a wonderfully pleasant experience.”

But she adds that the Huachucas are not the place to learn backcountry riding skills.

Huachuca Mountains

by Zach MacDonald



What was once a narrow path choked with downed trees and encroaching brush is now a pleasant trail along the crest of the Huachuca Mountains. *Zach MacDonald Photo*



Before (left) and after (right) photographs show the incredible rockwork that went into eliminating the perilous rock pinch near Bear Saddle. *Zach MacDonald Photo*



“It still requires, in my opinion, experienced riders with animals that have done this sort of thing before,” she said.

A great big thanks goes out to Zac Ribbing and the entire Sierra Vista Ranger District staff for their support; AZCC; ATA stewards; and members of the equestrian

community who provided the necessary perspective to help us repair this piece of trail. Lastly, none of this would be possible without funding from the US Forest Service, Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation, and all of the clubs and individuals that contributed to the effort. Rock by rock, mile by mile, and passage by passage we are working together

to make the Arizona Trail better all the time.

Zach MacDonald is the ATA's Assistant Trail Director. He developed and supervised much of the work for this project, and helped inspire the crews to literally move mountains to create a safer and more sustainable trail.

Remote Trail Maintenance Task Force



Responding to requests from numerous thru-hikers and day trippers who want to “give back” while they’re out there on the most remote portions of the Arizona Trail, we’ve developed a simple way for folks to trim back the encroaching acacia, remove problematic tree limbs, and help keep the Arizona Trail corridor clear. After all, it grows back with a vengeance every year!

If you’re interested in joining the Remote Trail Maintenance Task Force, just fill out and submit the form online, sign the waiver, and we’ll mail you a pair of pruning shears or professional hand saw along with a pair of work gloves.

Just go online to www.aztrail.org/remote_maintenance/ to fill out the form and choose pruning shears (9.5 ounces) or a folding hand saw (8.5 ounces). We’ll also include a 1-page guide to proper brushing and trimming techniques.

Return the tool when you’re done by mailing it back to the ATA and we’ll pass it along to the next member of the Task Force. The gloves are yours to keep, along with our profound thanks for your help in maintaining the AZT.



There are ample opportunities to get involved with the Arizona Trail Association. Save the date for one or more of these exciting events, and check out our online calendar regularly for updated information: aztrail.org/calendar.html. We're adding more great events all the time, and the only way they are successful is with help from volunteers like you.



Presented by Summit Hut

August 27 – North Rim Ramble

The ATA is organizing a marathon, half-marathon and 7-mile trail running event on the Kaibab National Forest near the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Volunteers are needed to help at aid stations and for start/finish line operations. Volunteers receive lunch, event T-shirt and profound thanks from runners who travel from around the nation to experience this particularly scenic passage of the AZT. Proceeds benefit the ATA.

8 am – 3 pm

aztrail.org/northrimtrailrun/



Presented by Babbitt Ranches

Sept 23-24 – Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stagecoach Line Ultra

This prestigious trail running event, features a 100-mile, 55K and relays from Flagstaff to Grand Canyon following the historic stagecoach route. Volunteers are needed to

help with aid stations in remote locations at all hours. Spend the day in a gorgeous location helping runners as they make this grueling and rewarding pilgrimage along the AZT. Proceeds benefit the ATA.

aztrail.org/ultrarun/



Presented by Findlay Toyota

Sept 9 – Arizona Trail Day

Join us for a celebration of the Arizona Trail in Flagstaff's beautiful Buffalo Park. Live music, food, drinks, outdoor expo, raffle and much more make this the largest gathering of Arizona Trail members, donors, business partners and friends of the entire year. Don't miss this free, family-friendly outdoor event, with incredible views of the Peaks and immediate access to the AZT.

10 am – 2 pm

aztrail.org/trail_day/flagstaff.html



Sept 23 – Peppersauce Roundup

The Oracle Ford Peppersauce Roundup, Mt. Lemmon Gravel Grinder and Peppersauce Stampede return to

Arizona Zipline Adventures near Oracle for the benefit of the ATA. Athletes choose from a trail run (10M, 8M and 5K) or off-road cycling event (40M, 50M & 60M), and there's a huge fiesta and music festival throughout the afternoon and evening. Volunteers are needed to help with aid station support, start/finish line operations, and much more.

americanbunnyhop.com/peppersauce-roundup-festival.html



Sept 9 – Women's Trail Work Day

Join this REI-sponsored trail work event on the AZT, led by women wielding tools. This project will be repairing the trail from fire damage and erosion near the Apache Spring Trailhead in the scenic foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains near Sonoita. Lunch is provided. RSVP online in advance!

9 am – 2 pm

rei.com/events/womens-trail-maintenance-day-on-the-azt/175235



Sept 30 – Trail Work Day

Join this Peace Surplus-sponsored trail work event in the ponderosa pines on the Coconino National Forest. Help repair a chunky segment of the AZT near Navajo Spring, just uphill from Mormon Lake Village. This is a great opportunity to give back by moving boulders, building drains, sawing logs, and much more. Lunch is provided and everyone in attendance will have a chance to win some great swag from Peace Surplus through a raffle.

wendy@aztrail.org

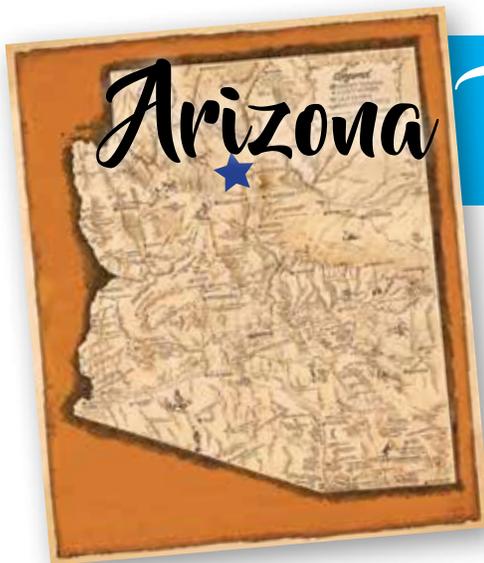


Sept 10 – Trail Skills Institute

Learn the art and science of trail stewardship, with a focus on improving drainage for trail sustainability, at this full-day course. Held in the ponderosa pine forest near Mormon Lake, this class is limited to 12 individuals. \$50/person (50% discount for AZT Stewards). Learn from the pros!

9 am – 3 pm

aztrail.org/volunteers/training.html



Trail History

Passage 41 – Kaibab Plateau: Central

by Preston Sands

The southern end of passage 41 follows a shallow ravine northward before paralleling the route of State Highway 67.

Just beyond the highway to the west is the beginning of Warm Springs Canyon. In the winter of 1890, copper was discovered in the Kaibab Limestone along Warm Springs Canyon, just west of Jacob Lake. Scores of mining claims were soon filed in the area, and a number of mines opened. Copper was produced intermittently for the next 50 years by a number of mines, peaking during World War I and World War II, as was typical with many Western mines.

One of the most successful mines in the area was the Mackin Mine. During the 1920's, the Mackin Mine hauled copper ore by railroad down Warm Springs Canyon to its smelting furnace at the company town of Ryan. The mine reportedly produced 150,000 pounds of copper in 1929 alone. A couple of small open pit mines produced copper in the area as well, but all grew silent as the 1940's drew to a close. While the forests have begun to reclaim the old mine sites, evidence of the area's copper mining days can be seen in the stones of greenish, copper ore used in construction of the Jacob Lake Inn.

Much of this passage traverses the crest of a broad, forested highland known as the Kaibab Plateau, which was forced upward by faulting in recent geologic time. The Kaibab Plateau is part of a sparsely populated, 5-million-acre section of land bordered by Nevada, Utah, and the Grand Canyon, that is often referred to as the "Arizona Strip." The rugged geographic barrier formed by the Grand Canyon has always kept this

part of Arizona isolated from the rest of the state. Culturally homogenous with southern Utah as a result of predominantly Mormon settlement in the area, the Arizona Strip was the subject of numerous failed annexation attempts by Utah to make it a part of that state. Historically, Arizona has had a difficult time enforcing the law in the Arizona Strip due to its isolation. A number of raids by Arizona law enforcement during the latter half of the 20th century attempted to curtail some of the polygamist practices from communities within in the area.

The northern third of this Arizona Trail passage makes a slow descent to the flatter, forested terrain near the village of Jacob Lake. Jacob Lake takes its name from Jacob Hamblin, a well-known Mormon explorer and pioneer credited with exploring much of northern Arizona while attempting to establish Mormon colonies there. Hamblin is credited as the first person to travel around the entire Grand Canyon, among many other accomplishments.

Jacob Lake itself, an old limestone sinkhole, lies a mile west of the village of Jacob Lake, and was an important source of water in this largely waterless region. The lake was a frequent water stop for those traveling through the area. Located in heavy timber, Jacob Lake was also the location of a sawmill during the early 1880's. In 1923, Harold and Nina Bowman established a gas station for travelers along the highway at Jacob Lake, followed by a two-room lodge a year later. The highway was moved a mile east in 1929, and the Bowmans built a new lodge known as the Jacob Lake Inn, along the new highway route. The Jacob Lake Inn, which grew to include a restaurant, store, and lodging, is still operated by the Bowman family.

Preston Sands is a local historian who has written chapters on Arizona history for each of the Arizona Trail's 43 passages. These will be published in an upcoming version of the Arizona Trail App and in the second edition of Your Complete Guide to the Arizona National Scenic Trail (Wilderness Press).

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United States Geological Survey (1903) *Arizona Bright Angel quadrangle*.

United States Geological Survey (1891) *Arizona Echo Cliffs quadrangle*.

United States Geological Survey (1886) *Arizona Kaibab quadrangle*.



Passage 41, near Telephone Hill
Larry Simkins Photo



Hosting a Successful Volunteer Event

by Wendy Lotze

The history of the Arizona Trail is full of successful volunteer efforts, whether as advocates, trail crews or organizers.

For many of these generous individuals, one of the best parts of being an Arizona Trail volunteer is the opportunity to step outside the box of our everyday and accomplish something tangible – something we can point to and proudly say “I did that!” Whether recruiting new trail enthusiasts, building a quarter-mile of new tread, or helping to support a thru-hiker, the joy is in the accomplishment. And the satisfaction lasts far longer than the activity.



Group volunteer events are lots of fun, and can make significant improvements to the Arizona Trail. *Wendy Lotze Photo*

When we start to turn these efforts into events, we then turn to those volunteers who are natural planners and organizers (people who make coordinating look fun and easy). It’s logical to lean on their talents for getting people and stuff together, and to rely on them to make us all look good. But what happens when you don’t have access to one of these very unique individuals? How does someone who dislikes being an “event planner” pull off a successful volunteer day?

Here are a few tips that might help make your life, and your trail work event, a little easier (and I won’t use the word “visualize” once):

Feel confident making the big decisions

ATA staff are here to help you identify projects and create a plan for action, but don’t worry too much about getting a dozen second opinions on the perfect date, location, length, format or game

plan. If you love it, chances are others will too. The best event planners know when to poll the crowd and when to just tell everyone what the plan is. Pick your strategy and run with it!

Use your community contacts and support

Engaging members of your gateway/local communities will not only help your event, but also help support the larger community of the trail. Many businesses and individuals WANT to get more involved in the trail and are looking for ways to help. Never be afraid to invite them to do something they’re already eager to do.

Know your resources

There are many ways the ATA can support you. The Volunteer program has tools in place that make things like event registration and sign-up easier. We can help you with communicating with your volunteers and we love to help promote great events all across the state. The Trail Operations staff is there to help you with technical approaches to common (and uncommon) problems on the trail. We even have ways to help with the cost of food, supplies, and swag to encourage participation. Just ask – we WANT to help you with this!

Change those big decisions when you need to

Okay, so we just said that you shouldn’t be afraid to MAKE the big decisions. But you also shouldn’t be afraid to change them when the situation calls for it. Knowing when to adjust a schedule, change a location, or limit participation can be difficult, but it is all made more challenging when we feel like

hobgoblins to our previous declarations. Don’t be afraid to recognize when something isn’t working and change it for the benefit of safety, fun or productivity.

Don’t try to replicate someone else’s party

Harvesting great ideas from one another is a great benefit of being involved in a strong community. You can learn a lot from watching how another host puts together their event. However, most techniques and activities are not one-size-fits-all. Make the event you want to host your own. Find having too many people along is too stressful? Then limit the participation. Not comfortable cooking for a crowd? Then make the meal a potluck or plug in the local pizzeria. Do what you’re comfortable doing, and recognize that it’s enough.

If the AZT was built by volunteer efforts, then it makes perfect sense that its future lies within the same. The ATA and its trail users and volunteers depend upon each other to make these things happen, and every person reading this paragraph has the power to affect positive change. Join the effort, and if this kind of leadership seems out of your comfort zone, maybe this is a great time to step outside it.

Wendy Lotze started hosting trail events when she was eight and served up mud pie to her family on a trip to the Bradshaw Mountains. She’s since progressed in her skills but can still be found playing in the dirt as the ATA’s Volunteer Coordinator and segment steward for Passage 17a.



Even one strong volunteer makes all the difference! *Wendy Lotze Photo*

Tips for Trail Stewards: Packstock Etiquette

by Mark Loseth

Discovering the trail on horseback is a great way to appreciate the Arizona Trail, and is popular on many passages throughout the state. While out there working on the trail, we want to make sure we do the right thing when equines pass through our work area. This includes animals carrying people as well as supplies (packstock). As Trail Stewards, we don't know how the animals or their riders are going to act. Following these basic guidelines will ensure that no matter how unpredictable the animal or inexperienced the rider, we can provide safe passage through our work area.

Communicate

When you see or hear equines approaching, let everyone on your crew know before they arrive at your work area. Greet the riders in a clear and calm voice and let them know you are working on the trail. Also let them know if you need a moment to clear the corridor to allow them safe passage.

Clear the Trail

Remove all tools, backpacks, water bottles, and anything else from the trail corridor. Even if equestrians offer to ride around your project site, it's best to keep them on the trail in the interest of safety and trail sustainability.

Head Downhill

Equestrians prefer you go downhill from the trail, so move all of your tools and gear below the trail and well away from the tread. Please follow this guideline unless going downhill may be dangerous for you and your crew. If you must go uphill, communicate that with the equestrians and ask if this is acceptable for the riders. They may ask you to move down the trail until you can go below the tread. Riders know their animals best, so follow their recommendations.

Look Human

Remove your helmet before stock and riders arrive at your work site. Identify yourselves as humans by talking to the riders and the animals clearly and calmly. Sometimes the horses you encounter travel your segment frequently, and being highly intelligent creatures they have the ability to remember almost every inch of the trail. You and your crew can be unexpected, and if they know we are only human they are more likely to not be skittish.

Hands Off

Do not approach or touch equines unless the riders encourage you to do so.

Wait For It

Wait until the riders are long gone from your work area before returning to work. We don't want to startle the stock in any way, and often times sounds from behind the animals have the most profound impact.

Providing a safe experience for all is the most important thing we do as Trail Stewards. Following these ethics will ensure that equestrians will have a great day on the trail, and helps build stronger connections between trail users and volunteers. The equestrians you meet on the trail may someday be the ones hauling tools and supplies into the backcountry for your next remote trail work event.

Mark Loseth is the National Trails Coordinator for American Conservation Experience (ACE). Tips for Trail Stewards is a regular column intended to further your understanding and skills in trail maintenance. The ideas have been developed, tested and proven by trail professionals on the Arizona Trail. To learn more about the art and science of trail stewardship, sign up for one of the Trail Skills Institute classes offered by ACE throughout the year by visiting aztrail.org/volunteers/training.html



ATA volunteer and backcountry packer Bill Vicary leads Rocky, Sugar and Spice into the Mazatzal Mountains in support of a recent Volunteer Vacation. Wendy Lotze Photo



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