



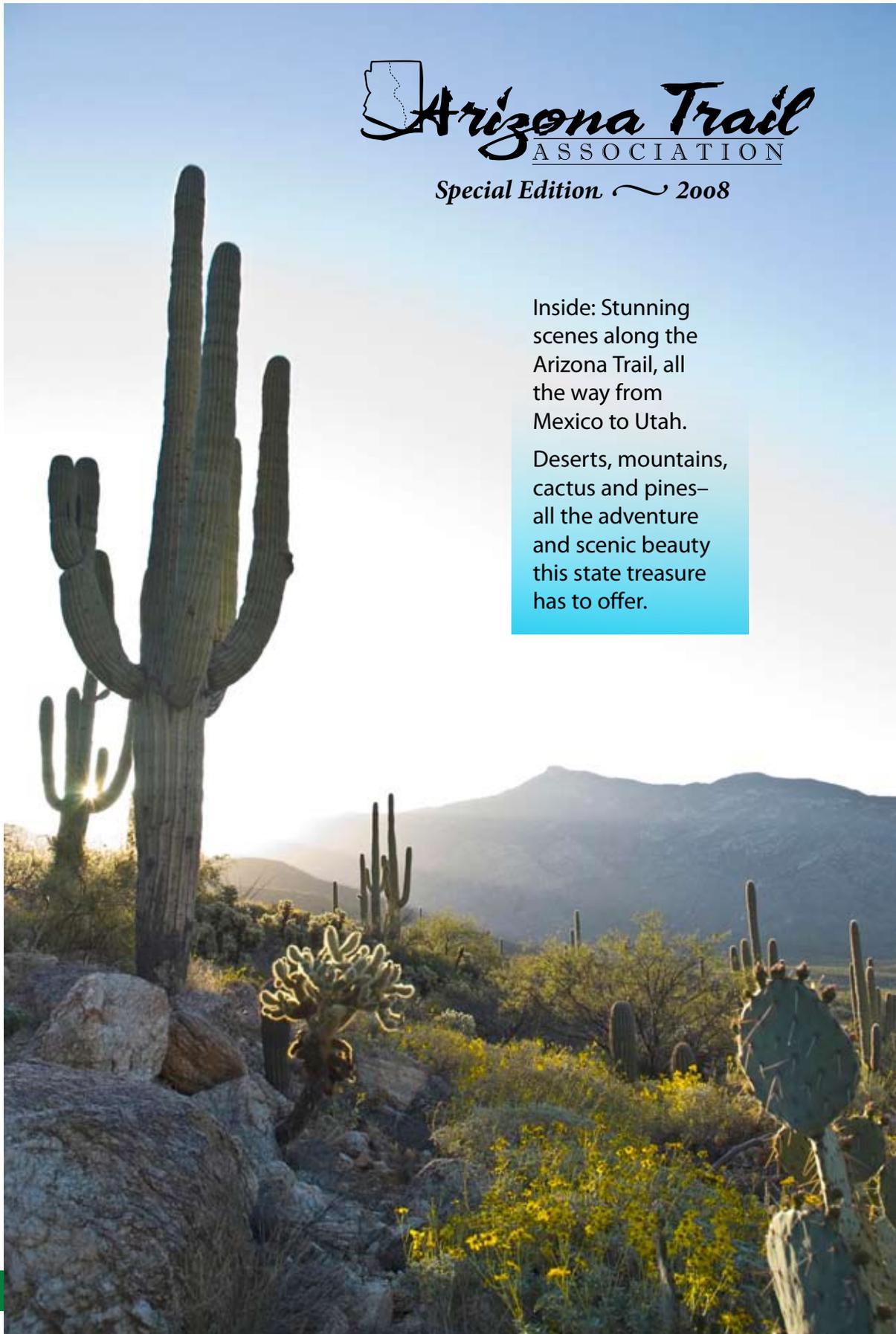
Arizona Trail

ASSOCIATION

Special Edition ~ 2008

Inside: Stunning scenes along the Arizona Trail, all the way from Mexico to Utah.

Deserts, mountains, cactus and pines—all the adventure and scenic beauty this state treasure has to offer.





A Word from the Executive Director

The Arizona Trail is the place to enjoy the Arizona outdoors and it is done in so many ways.

Some of you work tirelessly building and maintaining it. Others ride a bike or horse on it. Others set out on foot for a mile or 807 miles taking pictures, enjoying the solitude, and soaking up the spectacular and so very diverse Arizona beauty.

This special edition newsletter is for you. Thanks for being a part of the Arizona Trail.

*Dave Hicks
Executive Director*



If you're a member, remember to renew when your notice comes, and if you're not yet a member, become one. Each membership supports our trail in many ways, from showing the sheer number of trail enthusiasts to helping pay the expenses that go along with a trail like ours. We are a 501c3 organization, so your dollars are tax deductible.



Your generous donations from \$1 to \$20,000 are gratefully acknowledged.



You can find a map and access point information, as well as membership and upcoming event details, on our website at www.AzTrail.org.



The Arizona Trail—open for you 365 days a year.

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- Saguaro National Park
- Tonto National Forest
- Walnut Canyon National Monument



On the cover: The Rincon Mountains from Colossal Cave Mountain Park.

Photo by Dave Baker

Above: Lake Mary from Anderson Mesa south of Flagstaff. Photo by Larry Snead

Right: Young trailworkers in northern Arizona.

The Arizona Trail

If you've ever had the pleasure of experiencing the Arizona Trail with its founder, Dale Shewalter, you know that he comes equipped with a harmonica that magically appears at the campfire after a day on the trail, and his tunes come along with great stories about the history of our state. At the 2003 ATA Annual Meeting, Dale surprised the attendees with a moving poem he had written for the occasion. We thought you'd enjoy it.

In the land of Arizona
Through desert heat or snow
Winds a trail for folks to follow
From Utah to Old Mexico.

It's the Arizona Trail
A path through the great Southwest
A diverse track through wood
and stone
Your spirit it will test.

Some will push and pedal
And some will hike or run
Others will ride their horse or mule
What else could be more fun?

Oh, sure, you'll sweat and blister
You'll feel the miles each day
You'll shiver at the loneliness
Your feet and seat will pay.

But you'll see moonlight on the
borderlands
You'll see stars on the Mogollon
You'll feel the warmth of winter sun
And be thrilled straight through to
bone.

The aches and pains will fade away
You'll feel renewed and whole
You'll never be the same again
With Arizona in your soul.

Along the Arizona Trail
A reverence and peace you'll know
Through deserts, canyons and
mountains
From Utah to Old Mexico.

Dale R. Shewalter
February 1, 2003

*Above: Dale Shewalter. Photo by Bob Rink
Below: General Spring Canyon. Photo by Larry Snead*



Our Volunteers



The Arizona Trail is a way for those of us who enjoy the outdoors and live here to see all of Arizona, whether it be for a day, a week or a bunch of weeks. It also allows our visitors to see parts of the State that may not be enjoyed any other way.

I moved here to finish building the Arizona Trail. It provides a sense of accomplishment and motivation to do other things by moving dirt and rocks and leaving a legacy for those who enjoy the outdoors to use both now and in future years.

The Trail is a challenge—both to build and to hike. And maybe that is the way we should leave it.

Bernie Stalman is Southern Region Trail Steward in charge of trail building and maintenance.

The Arizona Trail provides me a chance to challenge myself; to really get close to the beauty, difficulties, and dangers of nature; to meet good people; and to contribute to the effort to leave a great legacy for enjoyment by others.

I volunteer for and am involved with the Arizona Trail because by doing so, I have found the companionship of good people and a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction when I have contributed to the successful completion of a difficult job of maintenance or construction. I am helping to leave, as others before did for me, a treasure for my grandchildren and future generations.

I would describe the Arizona Trail as an intensive route of constant change of scenes of rugged beauty, of color, of light and shadow, of ecologies, of the discovery and close experiencing of nature, and of physical and mental challenge.

Laddie Cox serves as Hit and Run Crew leader, seeking out problem spots and patching them up.

Top: Sierra Club pitches in near Picketpost trailhead.

Photo by Conrad Glenn Smith

Above left: Las Colinas trail building.

Photo by Richard Grodzicki

Right: Volunteers help "Close the Gap" near Flagstaff. Photo by Chuck Williams



North

We now are within sight of having the Arizona Trail completed. It has proven to be very rewarding, mostly because of the great people that we meet building the trail. This past season we have been involved with a very successful volunteer effort to “Close the Gap—Finish the Arizona Trail” on the S. F. Peaks near Flagstaff. We need more of all types of folks who are interested in the AZT.

Gary Hohner is Northern Region Trail Steward in charge of trail building and maintenance.



Top: “Close the Gap” volunteers sans their hard hats. Photo by Chuck Williams

Above: Railroad Grade north of Mormon Lake. Photo by Fred Gaudet

Left: Equestrians Judi Johnston, George Hay, and Lynn Maring, trail steward for section 40, Kaibab Plateau South. Photo courtesy Lynn Maring

Below: A cyclist enjoys the Trail at the Grandview Tower trailhead. Photo by Larry Snead

I never knew my home state of Arizona until I hiked the Arizona Trail. The state and trail have unequalled scenic beauty and amazingly diverse geology.

Dave Hicks, Executive Director

www.aztrail.org



I volunteer because of the feeling I get; it's like nothing else. In addition to the health benefits of hiking and biking, every mile planned, every mile built, and every mile hiked is another goal achieved.

The Arizona Trail offers me a way to view the remarkable sites from Mexico to Utah. Additionally, it offers a way to be ACTIVELY involved in building a legacy for those generations yet to come. Hopefully they'll have the same feelings I have experienced, especially the one I have every time I stop to smell the fresh air and look back on the trail just hiked.

The AZT is one of the most rewarding non-motorized trail experiences for the active outdoor person. It can be traversed in so many ways: backpacking, day hiking, family hiking, mountain biking, equestrian traveling, mile by mile. You will pass through three National Forests, designated Wilderness areas, unique desert lands, the Grand Canyon, Arizona State Parks, Bureau of Land Management areas and Arizona State Trust land.

The trail offers a similar experience as hiking from Mexico to Canada, except it's accomplished over 800 miles, all in one state. It's a unique experience that can be enjoyed year-round depending on how you plan: it's cold up north in the winter and hot to the south in the summer. It's a trail to be hiked for solitude, peace and quiet away from the fast lane!

John Rendall is Central Region Trail Steward for the ATA.

CENTRAL



Top: Classic desert scenery with newly built trail. Photo by Larry Snead

Left: Desert daisy. Photo courtesy Wendy Hodgson

Below: Picketpost Mountain. Photo by Larry Snead

Lower left: Springtime near Picketpost. Photo by Dave Baker



SOUTH

The Arizona Trail gives me an opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty, flora and fauna of Arizona, including the Grand Canyon, the mountain country on the Mogollon Rim, the desert Sky Islands and the Sonoran and Chihuahuan desert.

The Arizona Trail is an asset that will remain for future generations to enjoy.

I like being where the trail takes me. I like doing trail work. I like the people who like doing trail work.

Mark Flint works tirelessly as a trail steward for the Las Colinas and Cienegas segments.



*Above: Posta Quemada Ranch
Right: Morning Glory. Photo courtesy of Wendy Hodgson
Below: Redington Pass. Photo by Dave Baker
Left: March in the Huachucas. Photo by Neil Tietjen
Back cover: Verde River Valley. Photo by Dave Baker*



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