



Arizona Trail

ASSOCIATION

Special Edition Newsletter • 2011

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Aldo Leopold



We all love the many features of the Arizona Trail. It has challenging mountains, pine forests, lush desert with towering saguaros and incredible canyons. Plus, there's the wildlife; from wild elk and javelina to colorful cardinals and red tailed hawks to scurrying gila monsters and, if you are very lucky, maybe a desert tortoise. And then there's history, plant life, incredible sunsets and on and on. Wow, we are fortunate!

And to top it all off, after a day or more of enjoying the Arizona Trail, it is such a pleasure to visit with the friendly people in one of the many nearby Arizona Trail Gateway Communities, and enjoy refreshments, supplies and maybe a hot shower and overnight stay.

This newsletter features the Arizona Trail Gateway Communities. They are an important part of our trail. In the next year, I encourage you to visit them. The Gateway Communities are as diverse as the Arizona Trail. They all offer local culture, history and friendly people. And while visiting, let them know that you were on the Arizona Trail. More and more of their businesses and residents are becoming AZT supporters and volunteers. We are fortunate to be able to travel through and partner with such special places.

*Dave Hicks
Hiker and Executive Director*

The Arizona Trail

The Arizona Trail is a continuous, 800+ mile diverse and scenic trail across Arizona from Mexico to Utah.

It links deserts, mountains, canyons, communities and people. Currently 96% of the trail is complete.

The Arizona Trail Association's mission is to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

On the cover: Snow at the Peppersauce connector trailhead; top, Cienega Creek work crew grubbing trail (photo by Walt Tannert); right, Patagonia Fall Festival booth; bottom, visitors study gateway map at Payson festival. **Back cover:** Fall on the north rim of the Grand Canyon (Photo by Chuck Williams).

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Coronado National Memorial
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Saguaro National Park
Walnut Canyon National Monument

What are Gateway Communities?

Arizona Trail Gateway Communities lie near the trail and celebrate it as an amenity for both residents and visitors. Trail access is close by, and the communities are truly gateways to our National Scenic Trail.

Each community is distinct in its local shops and culture. They offer vital services like restaurants, lodging, groceries, supplies, information and relaxation. Trail users will find great before-, during- and after-adventure support. The friendly people in each place make every visit enjoyable.

Planning treks on the Arizona Trail is now easier because of a Gateway Communities map available at various visitor and information centers across Arizona. This newsletter features excerpts of this map.



Photo: Will Stenzel



Top, a gate-building crew wraps up their work; upper right, U.S./Mexico border monument, the start of many an Arizona Trail trek; right, a historic train station now serves as Patagonia's Town Hall; lower left, the first of many proposed Gateway Community signs .



Photo: Larry Sneed



“Colossal Cave Mountain Park is very pleased to be hosting a segment of the Arizona Trail. We have met some delightful people who stopped in while traversing the trail. The Arizona Trail is definitely a feather in Arizona’s cap!”

**Martie Maierhauser
Director,
Colossal Cave Mountain Park**



Photo: HagePhoto



“Working on the trail means that I’m truly a path maker for future travelers, and in the scheme of life, that is all we can expect to be.”

**Quentin Lewton
Trail Steward, Patagonia/Sonoita**

“We’ve heard people using the trail praise the trail, our town and its shops. We’ve also had many emails saying they became interested in the trail from emails by other trail users. It’s really a great network.”

**Ann Caston
Mariposa Books and Patagonia Visitors Center**



Special thanks for its newsletter support goes to Wide World of Maps

Top, trail runners enjoy sunset’s golden light in the Canelo Hills; center, at 8,000 feet, Manning Camp welcomes trail users high in the Rincons; bottom, Uncle Sam and Gary really do want you to volunteer!



“The Arizona Trail has been a very positive asset to our community of Superior. Since the shutdown of the mine, we’ve been working to diversify the economy through ecotourism, and it’s very fortunate that the Arizona Trail runs nearby.

We also appreciate the assistance of Arizona Trail volunteers in building our Legends of Superior Trail, which will be an artery to the Arizona Trail from Superior. The Arizona Trail means a great deal to our community into the future.”

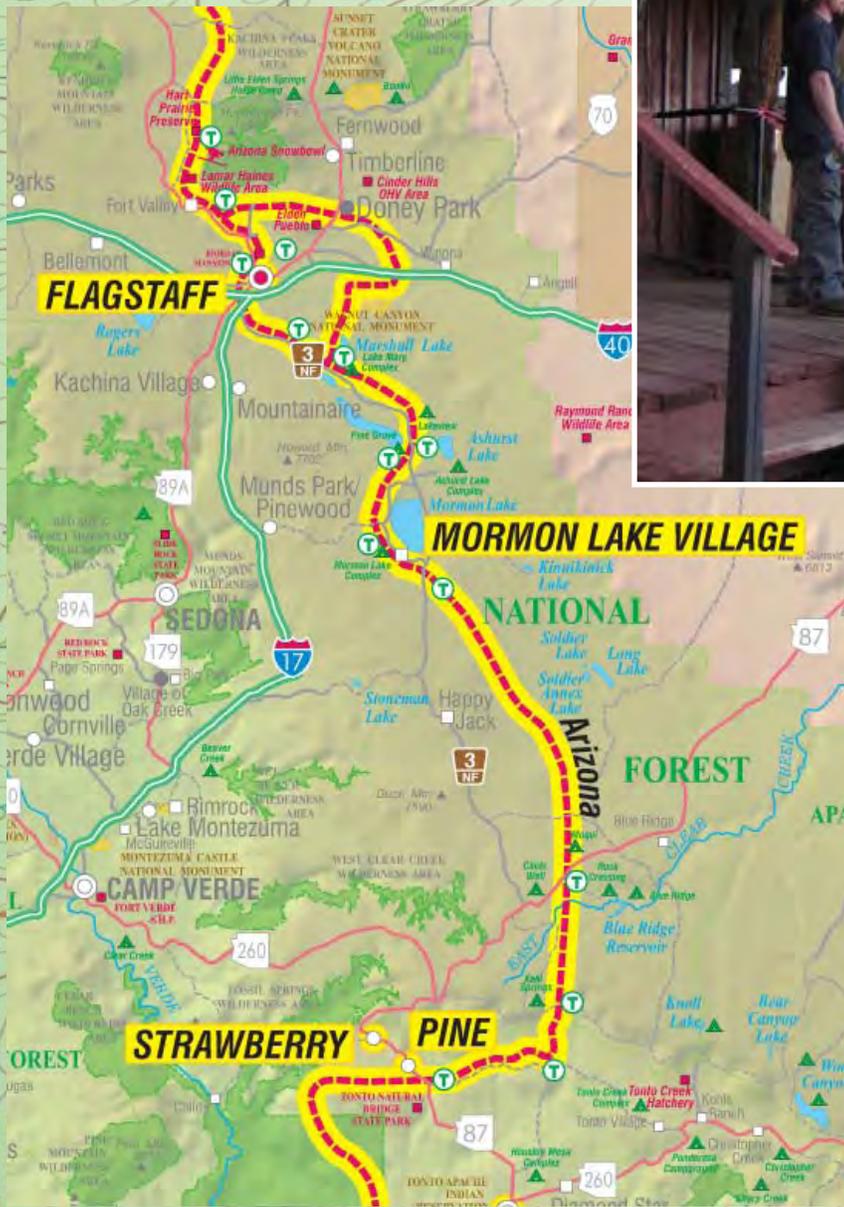
*Michael Hing,
Mayor of Superior*

Top, poppies in the Tortilla Mountains; center, young trail enthusiasts; bottom, Superior Earth Day school event at Picketpost Trailhead.

**Plan your next trek on your computer:
www.aztrail.org**

“For the devoted Flagstaff runner, much of the Arizona Trail offers a reprieve from the arduous rocky ascents and descents of trails on the San Francisco Peaks. The Arizona Trail gently contours across the Peaks, free from hidden ‘widow maker’ roots and rocks, allowing runners to savor the trail’s sweeping Northern Arizona vistas.”

*Neil Weintraub,
Northern Arizona Trail
Runners Association*



Top, Arizona Trail Member Rendezvous attendees enjoy Mormon Lake Lodge ambiance and hospitality; trailwork crew muscled a boulder out of the way.

**Renew your membership
from your computer:
www.aztrail.org**

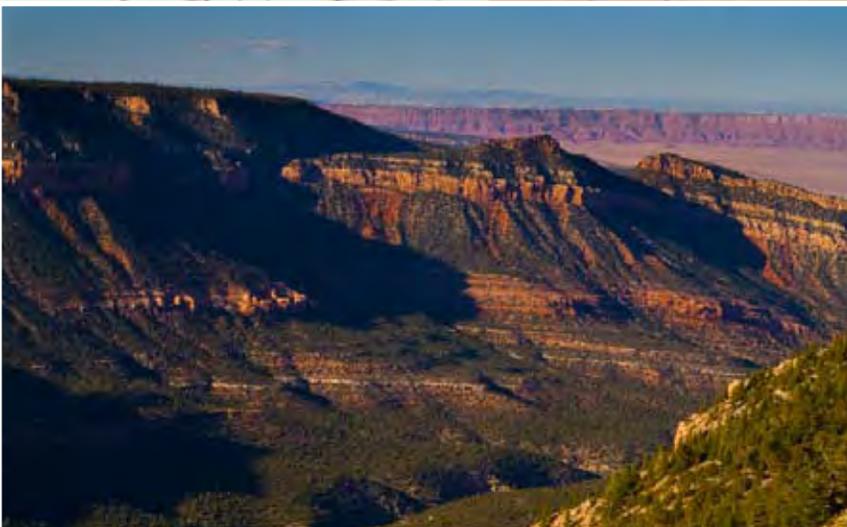
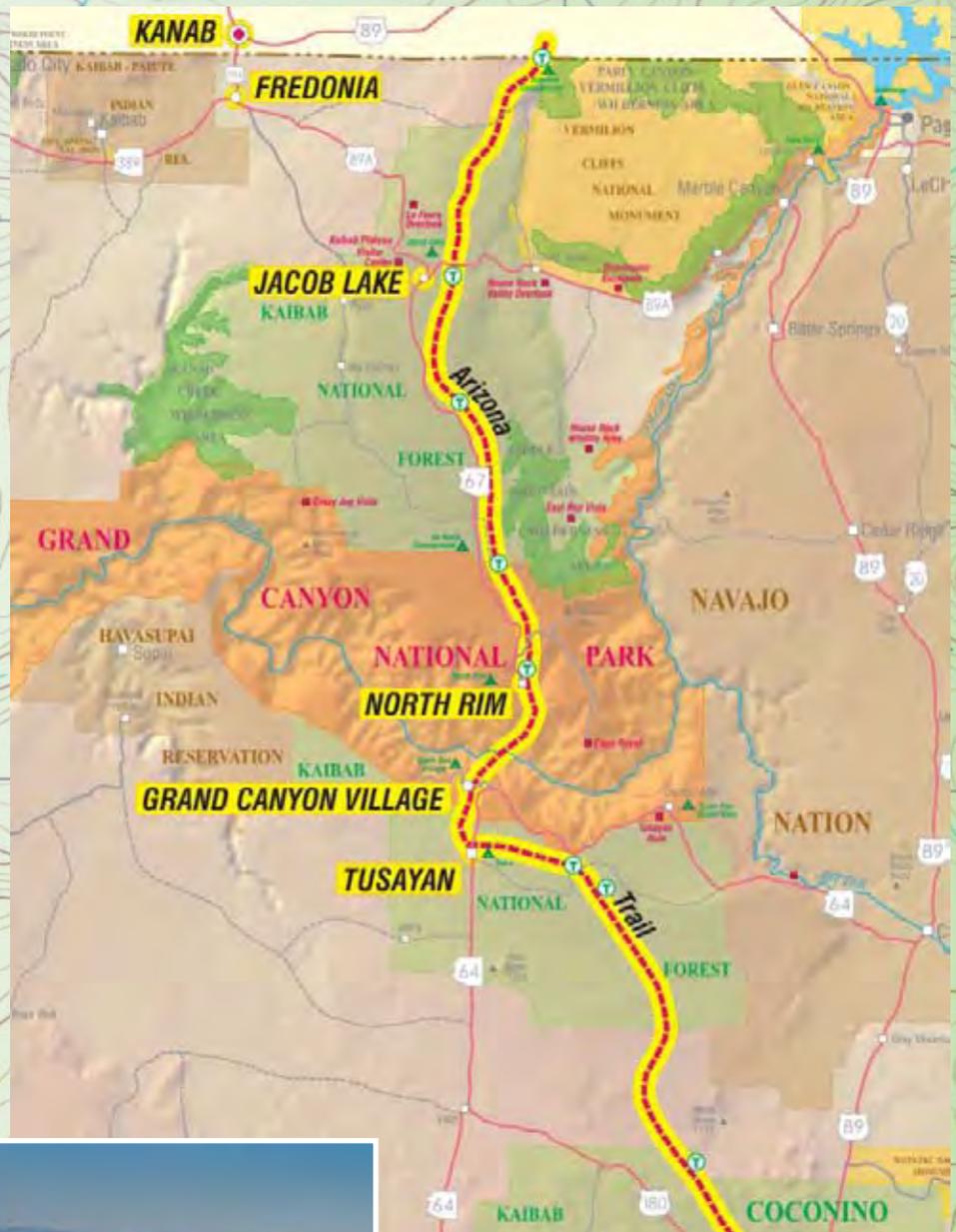
“It is on regular occasion, especially in the summer and fall, that trail users wander into the Village of Mormon Lake.

Their objective is Mormon Lake Lodge. At the lodge, a restaurant, country store, campground, shower and laundry facilities meet the needs of hikers and others traversing the state or just doing a portion of the trail on a one-week getaway.

It is always interesting to hear their experiences on the trail and where they are from.

Mormon Lake Lodge considers the Arizona Trail a great partner and is proud to be so close by to benefit its users!”

*Scott I. Gold,
General Manager
Mormon Lake Lodge*



Above, a view from the north rim of the Grand Canyon looking east toward the Vermilion Cliffs; at right, the Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center at Jacob Lake during the off-season for most trail users!



Photo: Chuck Williams

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 501(c)(3) 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 web site at www.aztrail.org.

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

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