Welcome Our New ATA Executive Director, Denise Meridith!

The Arizona Trail Association is proud to announce the selection of Denise Meridith as our organization’s new Executive Director.

In this position, Denise will work with the ATA board of directors to expand the organization, coordinate development activities and support a variety of efforts to complete the Arizona Trail. The position is being funded as part of a significant grant provided by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

The culmination of a two-month national search for our new Executive Director brought our selection committee and interview panel directly back to an Arizona candidate in their unanimous decision to offer the position to one of the state’s most prominent leaders in natural resources and recreation.

For the past seven years, Denise led 600 employees in eight offices as the Arizona State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with responsibility for management of 14 million acres of public lands. In June 2002, Denise retired from her impressive 29-year professional career with the BLM to focus on her desire to begin a consulting career and expand her community involvement, utilizing her strong business management and nonprofit leadership skills.

Denise is a Natural Resources/Wildlife Biology graduate of Cornell University, and she has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. Prior to her Arizona position, Denise served as the Deputy Director of BLM in Washington, DC, where she developed a strong relationship with members of Congress and many leaders in land management agencies.

While in Arizona, Denise has been active as a volunteer, including serving on boards with the Girl Scouts, the Greater Phoenix Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Arizona Tourism and Sports Authority. She also led the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the last City of Phoenix bond campaign and co-founded the Arizona Tourism Alliance.

Her civic contributions have been acknowledged by numerous organizations: YWCA Entrepreneur of the Year 2001; the first ever 2002 BLM Legends Award for Lifetime Achievement;

Continued on page 2

Arizona Trail Day at Oracle State Park

by Randy Warner

Oracle State Park is one of Arizona’s lesser-known public land gems, and the Arizona Trail goes right through it. It sits on 4,000 acres of rolling high desert that used to be owned and ranned by the Kannally family of Oracle.

On October 5, 2002, the Arizona Trail Association held “Arizona Trail Day at Oracle State Park,” a purely fun event for ATA members and prospective members. We couldn’t have had a better day for hiking, biking or riding the Arizona Trail had we special ordered it. Members got the chance to experience the Arizona Trail within the Park, as well as explore the Park, including the historic Kannally ranch house. And after their hikes and rides, they were rewarded with hot dogs on the grill and an ample supply of spicy Cheetoes (courtesy of the Hicks clan).

continued on page 5
The Arizona Trail Association coordinates the planning, development, management and promotion of the Arizona Trail for recreational and educational experiences for non-motorized trail users.

Board of Directors
President: Jan Hancock  pres@aztrail.org
Secretary: Suzanne Pfeister  secretary@aztrail.org
Steve Anderson  desertrls@aol.com
Bob Bohannan
Dawson Henderson  dawsnh@aztrail.org
Cynthia Lovely  lovely@aztrail.org
Phyllis Ralley  maps@aztrail.org
Terry Sario  tsario@aztrail.org
Dale Shewalter
Eric Smith  esmith@aztrail.org
Randy Warner  rwarner@aztrail.org

Executive Director: Denise Meridith  ed@aztrail.org
Chief Trail Steward: Larry Snead  sneadlarry@qwest.net
Executive Coordinator: Deb Morgaina  debaztrail@cs.com

The Arizona Trail Association has been blessed with fabulous support from our land management agency partners, and equally strong support from thousands of volunteers. We don’t have any land we have to buy, and we don’t have many of the other obstacles being experienced by trails organizations around the nation and the world.

What we do have is a stellar, dedicated, and results-oriented group of fantastic volunteers who just won’t quit in their pursuit of completing our founder’s dream...a completed ribbon of trail from border-to-border...and in less than a decade we are almost there! My pride in this organization knows no bounds.

Deb Morgaina to Assist ATA

Deb Morgaina joined ATA in October as our bookkeeper, database manager and general administrative support for Denise Meridith. She has been a Phoenix resident since 1979. After over 15 years as a law office administrator in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Phoenix and Scottsdale, Deborah Morgaina, opened her consulting practice, Avalon Office Organization & Management Consulting. In September 2002, she celebrated 9 years in business.


In 2001 Deb was the president of the Arizona Professional Organizer’s Association. Avalon’s clients range from large corporations including Allied Signal, Arizona Public Service, and Salt River Project, as well as many small business owners, entrepreneurs, home based businesses, and professional associations.

Deb's position with the ATA is funded by a portion of the recently awarded Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust grant.

If you have any mailing or e-mail address changes, or have questions regarding your ATA volunteer hours, membership dues, expense reimbursements, or any other questions relating to our ATA databases or bookkeeping, you can contact Deb through the ATA telephone message center, 602-252-4794, or send a direct e-mail message to her at: debaztrail@cs.com

President’s Pride

by Jan Hancock

Looking over all that we’ve accomplished together thus far in 2002, it’s hard to believe that we’re still packing in more activities in our calendars before the end of this year!

On November 10-13, 2002, our new Executive Director, Denise Meridith, our Chief Trail Steward, Larry Snead, and I will be attending the National Trails Symposium being held in Orlando, Florida, to share our Arizona Trail story with trails enthusiasts and agency officials who will be in attendance from throughout the nation and many other nations from around the world.

We will all be conducting special presentations and attending sessions that will feature the nation’s most spectacular trails, including the Arizona Trail, and we have a beautiful new display highlighting the scenic beauty of the route of the Arizona Trail that will be on exhibit at the Symposium for three days.

My pride in our Arizona Trail project always swells enormously as I meet with people from all over the world to share our trail’s story and our success as an organization. It is at these types of national meetings that we realize how much we have accomplished in such a short time. Most long distance trails are 30 or more years old, hundreds and hundreds of miles away from completion, and most have truly significant, long range obstacles to overcome, such as purchases of expensive private lands for their trail’s pathway.

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### Trail Construction Workshops Concluded

Twenty-seven enthusiastic learners, and four capable Instructors participated in the last of ten Trail Construction & Maintenance Workshops carried out under two successive grants from the National Park Services's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Held in Tucson September 28-29, the group rehabilitated more than a mile and a half of the Arizona Trail between Molino Basin and Prison Camp, in the Catalina Mountains, including a major rerouting to address a very bad switchback, and major reconstruction of another switchback.

Workshop Coordinator (and recently named Canelo -Temporal Gulch Segment Steward) Richard Corbett was joined by Catalina District Trails Ranger Robert Magon, Safford District seasonal Trail Crew Leader Steve Marlatt, and Catalina District Trail Crew Leader Mike Watson as Instructors for the Workshop.

Learners attending the Workshop came mainly from the Southern Arizona and Saddle Brooke Hiking Clubs. The Saddle Brooke Club's John Rendall is Segment Steward for Passage 12, Mt. Lemmon - Oracle Ridge, and the Southern Arizona Club is considering further involvement.

Corbett, who worked with other Arizona Trail leaders in 1999-2000 to develop the curriculum used for the ten Workshop series, has distilled a one day workshop that can be done as an “on-the-trail” learning experience. Contact him at kc7ovm@dakotacom.net, for more information.
Welcome New and Renewal Members

New Members since March 1, 2002

Nicholas Ardito  
Bryan Back  
Glenn Barber  
Steve Bass  
Dave Billingsley  
Daniel Brenden  
Desert Saddle Bags Members  
Donna Buchholz  
Jeff Caskey  
Bill Cavin  
Effie Chiu  
John Currid  
William C. Findley  
Rick & Tamara Hanson  
Helen A. Hiner  
Lou Hoover  
Lois Judd  
Judith Julien  
Lynn Krigbaum  
David Kumasaka  
Maj. Heather L. Lowden  
June Mikkila  
Mike Noble  
Norma Norwood  
Scott & Merry Nowicki  
Stan Peterson  
Debbie Redmond  
George Rhea  
Chris Roberts  
Paul Seibert  
Valerie Simms & Betty Gibson  
Kent Spillman  
Mary Stone  
Heath Therrien  
Elly Van Gelderen  
Sheri Weinberger

Renewals since March 1, 2002

Judy Anderson  
Ray Anderson  
Shirley Armstrong  
Carl E. Babcock  
David Babcock  
Douglas Ball  
Stuart & Lynne Ball  
Larry Bans  
Sue Baughman  
Richard Bauman  
Katherine Baker  
Colin & Jean Beals  
Moe & Carrie Bell  
Bob & Margaret Bohannan  
Sara C. Bollman  
Tim Bowden  
Sheri Brown  
The Buckhout Family  
David Burkett  
Margie Buyers  
Pat Calkins  
Howard Calvert  
Barbara Cardinal  
Linda Carey  
Don Carrell  
Frederic Chambers  
Jim & Mary Charvat  
Ron Chorba  
J.M. Coffman  
Charles Cook  
Louis H. Coor  
Reinhold Cordella  
Jerry Curless  
Doyle & Tess Cutler  
Ray & Barbara Daoust  
Wayne Delvin  
Geri DeMuro  
William Dillon  
Richard & Sarah Duerden  
Janice & Chris Dunn  
Earl Edris  
Tim England  
Charles & Barbara Ewing  
John Fielder  
Hanna Flagg  
Mark Floor  
Gina Flynn  
James Gallup  
Laurent O. Gaudreau  
Marge Germain  
Glendale Hiking Club  
Carl & Shirley Golnik  
Rolf (Jake) Jacobson  
Robert & Jan Ganelin  
George Gowman  
Keith & Nancy Green  
Zane Greene  
Duchess Gruener  
Dennis Godfrey Family  
Lorraine P. Halvorsen  
Ken Haney  
Gail Hanna  
Mike & Betty Headrick  
Spike & Carol Hicks  
Chuck Horner  
Howard Howell  
Nancy Johnson  
Joseph Joyce III  
Ken Kalina  
Keith Kelly  
Richard Kelly  
Stefnie Kenny  
Satwant Singh Khalsa  
David A. King  
Diane & Bob Knoff  
Jerry Korn  
Kay Korn  
Tom Kotsonas  
John Kristofl  
Mary Kwart  
Leo La Branche  
David & Sally Larimer  
Betty Leavengood  
David C. Lincoln  
Kevin Lockart & Mary Halffman  
Michael & Jamie Lovelis & family  
Cynthia Lovely  
Jane A. Lovely  
Mike & Amanda Luecker  
Don & Ronna Martin  
Lester Mauk  
Lynne May  
Douglas B. McCulley  
Margrit McIntosh & Pat Penn  
Blair McLaughlin  
Jeffrey & Barbara Minker  
Bruce Moehlman  
William T. & Shirley A. Moroney  
Maynard Munger  
Jeanne Neff  
Richard Obermiller  
Steve & Becky Oihla  
Brad & Marilyn Orr  
Anna C. Ortiz  
Harry & Doris Pederson  
Don, Ellen & Cathy Peterson  
Anna & Gary Pfender  
William "Bill" Platt  
Brad & Yvonne Poe  
George Price  
Phyllis Railey  
Doug Rautenkranz  
Debbie Redmond  
Dr. Terry Reeves  
Mark Roberts  
Bruce Robson  
Ian Rothwell  
Eric & Marty Rotter  
Clay Rubano  
Jeffrey Rundquist  
Eugene Rutherford  
Steve & Vicki Rutter  
Terry Sario  
Ray & Marie Schaaf  
Marilyn Schrab  
Butch Schubert  
Marc Schwartz  
Robert Schuetz  
Paul Seibert  
Dan Shein  
Richard Shewalter  
Byron & Kathy Simmons  
Liz Slauson & Carl Edminster  
Pat Millie  
Eric & Sharon Smith  
Michael Snook & Family  
Rae Spiter  
Dorothy Tangeman  
Robyn Tangeman  
Kent Taylor  
Jeff St. Thomas  
Bruce & Allene Thompson  
Donna Thrasher  
Betty Tunstall  
William C. Tyndall  
Jo Anne Uhleman  
Tony & Inga Viviano  
Everett L. Walter  
Randy & Tracy Warner  
R. Craig Wilson  
Keith Winkle  
Julian G. Woodin
Plan to Attend the ATA Annual Meeting on February 1, 2003!

It's not too early to get out your calendar for 2003 and mark down a very special date, the first Saturday in February, which happens to be February 1st next year. Plans are already underway to make this event one you won't want to miss!

Preliminary arrangements are being made to hold the ATA Annual Meeting at the beautifully enhanced Desert Botanical Gardens, near the Phoenix Zoo, next spring. The Gardens will be just starting with desert blooms this time of year, and all of the new buildings and additional exhibits that have just been completed will be a delightful and impressive discovery to many who have not visited there recently.

Welcome New Executive Director

the Small Business Association’s Vision 2000 Award for Minority Business Development; top 100 Phoenix leaders by City AZ; listed as one of the 2002 Phoenix’s “Most Influential” citizens by the Business Journal; and September 21, 2002, was recently designated “Denise Meridith Day” in a proclamation by the Mayor. These awards, and many others, recognize Denise’s outstanding accomplishments in youth programs, recreation, tourism, and economic development leadership throughout the state of Arizona.

Over the upcoming months Denise will be traveling to communities and Arizona Trail locations throughout the state to visit with volunteers, Segment Stewards, trails organizations, agency representatives, and business leaders to become better acquainted with all of our Arizona Trail supporters. She will also focus on establishing additional corporate and community partnerships to build long-term, border-to-border support for the preservation of the Arizona Trail.

If you would like to reach Denise to welcome and congratulate her in her new position, you can leave a voice-mail message for her at the ATA telephone number, 602-252-4794, drop her a note at our ATA mailing address, PO Box 36736, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6736, or send her an e-mail at her new ATA address: ed@aztrail.org.

Our organization would also like to recognize the tremendous financial support of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for providing the grant that is funding this key leadership position for our organization.

All the latest news and events are listed on our web site: www.aztrail.org

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Oracle State Park Event

Park Ranger Jerry Ravert joined us for a time to talk about Oracle State Park, and also to share stories about Kartchner Caverns State Park, where he worked for several years.

Arizona Trail Day at Oracle State Park was the first in what we hope will be regular member events on the Trail. Our members do so much work to build, maintain and support the Trail, and these events give them the chance to get together, meet each other and enjoy the Trail.

The event also featured activities for the kids, prepared by ATA member and former camp counselor Tracy Leonard-Warner. Kid-friendly events are something we hope to do again in the future.

The ATA Membership Committee’s future plans include a variety of member events to suit all interests, from day events to overnigheters, from bikes to equestrian to hiking, from events for experts to events for newcomers and novices. Keep watching this newsletter for announcements about future events.

All I Want For Christmas...

What are you getting your loved ones for the holidays? Another sweater? A vase they’ll take out only when you come over? A book they’ll never read?

This year, consider giving a gift membership to the Arizona Trail Association. For just $25, you can give a one-year membership that will help support and sustain the Arizona Trail. The recipient will get an Arizona Trail patch or sticker, all four quarterly issues of our newsletter, and ongoing information about member events. And as a small expression of our gratitude, you will receive a limited edition Arizona Trail lapel pin.

Giving a gift membership is easy. You can buy gift memberships online at www.aztrail.org, or use the mail-in form for regular or gift memberships printed on page 11 in this newsletter. You can also call the ATA voice messaging center, 602-252-4794, and ask us to contact you to take your gift membership order over the telephone. It's just that simple!
Passage 11, Santa Catalina Mts

My estimate is that we covered 1.5 miles of the Trail, including two major switchbacks - one a major re-route, and the other a major reconstruction. Our light maintenance was brushing (some quite extensive), tread repair (also some quite extensive), drainage bar cleaning, and in several locations, construction of a series of small rolling dips to help solve tread erosion (which was repaired using materials from the new rolling dips). We also constructed a significant natural barrier at the “entrance” to an abandoned section of trail, and hauled out several notable items of trash.

William Drabkin, Director, Youth Corps of Southern Arizona

Santa Rita Passage

On September 14, 2002 the Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists once again lent their support to the Santa Rita Passage and Segment Steward Stephen Wood. Under sunny, blue skies the crew tackled the locally known “Descent o’ Death (or Ascent if you’re headed that way!)” which is a very steep section located just east of the Gardener Canyon trailhead. The crew cleaned and repaired several drainage dips and performed tread restoration from top to bottom. Plans were also made to develop further improvements to increase sustainability and decrease maintenance requirements.

Stephen Wood

Boulders Segment

October 20th Work Event on the Boulders Segment

We were a small but determined group who tackled what appears to be the only rocky hillside on this segment of the Arizona Trail. I was joined on that beautiful Sunday by Sue Grace, Chuck King, Doug Marsh, and Merle Parmer to construct just over 100 yards of high quality trail. The trail construction was on the north side of Tecolote Ranch Road at the edge of Tecolote Ranch which is north of Freeman Road in Pinal County. A great deal of benching and rock removal was involved, but the finished product was A-One! I really enjoyed the day and the small group on this particular work event because I got to know each person much better than I would have with a large group.

Many thanks to my hearty volunteers!

By Segment Steward Anna Pfender

Pine Springs

On August 30th through September 2nd we set up a base camp at Pine Springs on the Arizona Trail north of Hwy. 87 and worked on getting the Arizona Trail fully signed north to Allen Lake. Participants were Donna Howell, Howard Howell, Helen Hill, Anna Pfender, Jan Lalan, Paul Meyer, Jessica Westermeyer and Larry Sneed.

Larry Sneed

Santa Rita Passage

Oct 19 brought beautiful weather and a crowd of eager trail workers to the southern Santa Rita Mountains. Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists once again showed excellent form in realigning a nasty switchback on the locally famous “Descent o’ Death” (very tongue in cheek!) located at the Gardener Canyon trailhead. Two of the attendees were recent graduates of the VOA/ATA Crew Leader school, so I was able to step back and let them and their teams exercise their abilities. Thanks to their efforts, this climb is now rideable to a few more cyclists, as well as more open for the equestrians as the 20 mule posse that rode through can attest.

William Drabkin’s group from Youth Corps of Southern Arizona came out to Kentucky Camp on Oct 24th and 25th. We worked on rehabbing tread in the KC area on Thursday followed by a cookout/campout and they put the finishing touches on our work in Gardener Canyon from Oct 19th by taking a rough climbing turn and building a very substantial switchback pad. It was very hard work and they did a great job. I would recommend the use of William’s group to other stewards.

Stephen Wood

IMPORTANT NOTE: The ATA keeps track of all donated volunteer hours in a computer database, whether it is volunteer work out on the Arizona Trail, or any other type of volunteer work you do to help the ATA. This information is very helpful (and impressive!) when we submit applications for grants and make annual reports to our land management agency partners. Please keep a running log of any volunteer work you do, and if you would like us to send you an "ATA Volunteer Hours Form,” please contact the ATA by telephone, mail, or e-mail.

...MANY MORE MILES TO BUILD
Blue Ridge Passage
Switchbacks Coming Up On Battleground Ridge
On September 7th and 8th a great crew gathered to re-build some switchbacks that take the Arizona Trail from the General Springs Wash up on Battleground Ridge. These switchbacks were not originally constructed in a correct manner and as a result they experienced extensive erosion damage. Participants were: Diane Wertz, Richard Wertz, Chuck Horner, Merle Parmer, Dave Burkett, Carl Babcock, David Babcock, Laddie Cox, Howard Howell, Donna Howell, Rick Obermiller, Jeff Pappas, Helen Hill, Tom Coulson and Larry Snead. Trish Callaghan and Rose Harley from the Mogollon Rim (Blue Ridge) Ranger District also joined in the work.

Larry Snead

Arizona Trail After Work Event

Big Rock - Rick Obermiller (left) and Laddie Cox tackle moving a big rock that had to go for the middle of the Trail route.

Arizona Trail Before Work Event

Arizona Trail After Work Event

Blue Ridge Passage
Switchbacks Follow-up
Because of lots of rain on Sept. 7-8, believe it or not, we did not get the new switchbacks completed. So we scheduled a follow-up work event to complete the project on September 23rd and 24th. There was no rain and we got the job done. Participants were: Chuck Horner, Laddie Cox, Merle Parmer, Dave Burkett and Larry Snead. Also participating was Sue Cox and she fixed all our meals which were wonderful. Thanks, Sue, we really appreciated and enjoyed having your great cooking.

Larry Snead
Calendar of Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

November 9-10, REI Annual Service Project, Picketpost Trailhead near Superior. Project will include both building a new trailhead and improving the Arizona Trail north of the Trailhead. Registration will start on September 1st at the Customer Service desk at either of our two valley locations. REI Tempe, 1405 W. Southern Ave., Tempe, AZ 85282, (480) 967-5494 REI Paradise Valley, 11634 N. Paradise Village Parkway West, Phoenix, AZ 85032, (602) 996-5400 Or they can register by e-mailing Paul Reinshagen, REI Events-Arizona, at preinish@rei.com. More info will appear here soon including registration link.

November 17 (Sun), Santa Rita Passage. Meet just off the eastbound I-10 Rt. 83 exit at 8:30 a.m. Work will be on the east slope of the southern Santa Rita Mountains. Wear trail work appropriate clothing and shoes, and bring sunscreen, water, and snacks. For work day details refer to the calendar at http://www.sdmb.org/cal1.html, or email Stephen Wood, aztraildoc@yahoo.com.

November 16-17, Antelope Peak segment, new trail construction. Eastern Pinal County south of Florence and north of Oracle, south of Freeman Road. Beautiful high desert country, a great place to spend some time in the cooler fall months. For more details contact Kent Taylor, Round Trip Bike Shop. 520-836-0799 or ktaylor@roundtripbikeshop.com.

November 16 (Sat), work day on the Eastern Superstitions segment of the Arizona Trail. We will meet at the intersection of Highway 188 and the Thule Mesa turnaround road at 7:00 am and then travel to the Upper Horrell turnaround (which is a 4 wheel drive access only). We will then hike into the Arizona Trail to complete brushing activity from the junction of the Campaign Trail with the Two Bar Ridge Trail north to Pine Creek. We should finish be back to the cars by 5-6 pm that evening. Tools needed are loppers (preferably), bow saws, work gloves, work boots, eye protection and long sleeves/pants and 3-4 liters of water. Unpurified water should be available at the worksite. Please contact Eric Hiser at (602) 279-5009 if you are interested in participating. Because this project will be in the Superstition Wilderness, the number of participants is limited to 12.

November 16-17, Ripsey Segment "Big Hill" Trail building, South of Superior (near Town of Kearney). Work one or both days. ATA received a grant to hire experienced trail crews to work on the "Big Hill" for 3 weeks in November. This event will be held in conjunction with these experienced crews. Bring gloves, boots, sunscreen, water and food. Primitive camping will be available. Please RSVP with Mike Luecker at 480-829-6000 (work), mluecker@pre-engr.com

November 23-24, Pinal County north of Freeman Road (SE of Florence). New trail construction. Contact Anna Pfender at 480/893-6610 or mtbbabe@cox.net.

November 23rd & 24th, Ripsey Segment "Big Hill" Trail building, South of Superior (near Town of Kearney). Work one or both days. ATA received a grant to hire experienced trail crews to work on the "Big Hill" for 3 weeks in November. This event will be held in conjunction with these experienced crews. Bring gloves, boots, sunscreen, water and food. Primitive camping will be available. Please RSVP with Mike Luecker at 480-829-6000 (work), mluecker@pre-engr.com

November 23 & 24 - Boulders Segment in Pinal County southeast of Florence Join Segment Steward Anna Pfender for a terrific weekend in the beautiful Arizona desert. Activities include Trail Hiking & Riding, Scavenger Hunt/Geo-Caching, Prize Drawings, Clif Bars & Other Giveaways sponsored by Bike Barn bike shop, Free Saturday Night Dinner, Drinks and Music, and Trail Construction, of course. The camping is primitive (no facilities available), so bring everything with the exception of dinner and refreshments for Saturday night. Contact Anna Pfender at (480) 893-6610 (h), (602) 744-4904 (w) or mtbbabe@cox.net to sign up and to get details and directions.

Nov 30 - Dec 1, Whitford Canyon. Enjoy beautiful fall weather in the desert at a 2-day work event north of Picketpost TH near Superior. We will be finishing up any unfinished trail work from the Nov 9 REI event and cleaning up a trail re-route from last spring just north of Highway 60. Overnight camping is available at the newly revamped Picketpost TH. A cowboy cookout dinner will be provided Saturday evening. For more information, please contact Rick Obermiller at 602 225-5449 days, 480 786-0083 eves, or via email at obermiller21@qwest.net.

DECEMBER

December 7-8, Whitford Canyon. This event is a continuation of the Nov 30 event north of Picketpost TH near Superior. The event will be full day Saturday, half day Sunday, fine-tuning newly constructed trail from the past year. Camping available at the beautiful Picketpost Trailhead at the base of towering Picketpost Mountain. A cowboy cookout dinner will be provided on Saturday night. An optional hike will be available Sunday afternoon to the top of Picketpost Mountain along with a discussion of the geology of the area. For more information, please contact Rick Obermiller at 602 225-5449 days, 480 786-0083 eves, or via email at obermiller21@qwest.net.

December 14th, Huachuca Mountains Passage, Sierra Vista Ranger District. Continuation of work as described above for September 28th. Work site is about 2.5 miles north of Montezuma Pass on the Crest/Arizona Trail. We will continue clearing the trail of heavy brush. Tools will be provided. Volunteers will need to bring a daypack with lunch, water, sun screen, hat, and gloves. For meeting time and place, call Steve Saway, (520) 459-8959.

December 14, Santa Rita Passage. Meet just off the eastbound I-10 Rt. 83 exit at 8:00 a.m. Work will be on the east slope of the southern Santa Rita Mountains. Wear trail work appropriate clothing and shoes, and bring sunscreen, water, and snacks. For work day details refer to the calendar at http://www.sdmb.org/cal1.html, or email Stephen Wood, aztraildoc@yahoo.com.

LATEST CALENDAR INFORMATION IS LOCATED AT WWW.AZTRAIL.ORG
Superstition Wilderness

Rogers Trough Trailhead to Roosevelt Lake

General Information
This Arizona Trail passage through the legendary Superstition Wilderness provides many scenic views of Four Peaks, and as we near the northern end, there is a great panorama of Roosevelt Lake against the backdrop of the Sierra Anchas.

Location: Central Arizona within the Tonto National Forest from Rogers Trough trailhead north of Superior to the bridge at Roosevelt Lake.

Length: 24.4 miles

Difficulty Rating: Difficult

Recommended Seasons of Use: Fall, Winter, Spring

Access: To reach Rogers Trough trailhead from the Phoenix area, follow Hwy 60 east through Apache Junction and Florence Junction. Two miles east of Florence Junction, turn north on the paved Queen Valley road, drive approximately a mile and then turn right on FR 357 and cross RR tracks. Follow FR 357 two and one-half miles to FR 172 (Hewit Creek Rd). Turn north and follow FR 172 for approximately eight miles to primitive road FR 172A. This difficult three-mile-long 4WD road leads to Rogers Trough trailhead.

To access the Arizona Trail from the Roosevelt Lake trailhead, drive northwest from the Globe-Miami area on Hwy 88 to the Frazier trailhead, which is two miles south of the Roosevelt Lake bridge, or proceed to the Roosevelt Lake trailhead just south of the intersection of Hwy 88 and Hwy 188 at the dam. Trail users who choose to overnight may use the Tonto National Forest lakeside campground just north of Frazier Trailhead on Highway 88.

Another route from Phoenix is Hwy 87 north to Hwy 188, and then travel through Punkin Center southeast to the Roosevelt Lake trailhead.

Trail Route Description:
The Arizona Trail enters the Superstition Wilderness at the Rogers Trough trailhead and descends northwest into Rogers Canyon on trail #109. At approximately 1.3 miles at the intersection with trail #110, trail #109 turns northeast and travels up a drainage, up onto Reavis Saddle, and on to the ruins of Reavis Ranch. Elisha Reavis, the legendary recluse, homesteaded 60 acres and farmed here for more than twenty years until his death in 1896. He supplied fruit and vegetables to the mining camps, and to the military with his pack trains of burros. Local historians believe that the present route of the Arizona Trail from Reavis Ranch to Picketpost trailhead closely follows the original route of his pack trail. In the old ranch area, there still is a producing apple orchard of more than 300 trees. There are good campsites upstream and downstream from the old ranch, but camp at least 300 feet from water and trails.

The trail proceeds north from Reavis Ranch on trail #109 to a junction west of the orchard and then follows trail #117, which leads northeast across Pine Creek (good campsites) towards Reavis Gap. At a trail junction approximately two and one-half miles from the ranch, the route turns northwest on trail #119 which leads in a northerly direction past Walnut Spring, Klondike Spring, Two Bar Mountain, and along the high Two Bar Ridge. Just beyond Pinyon Mountain, trail #119 ends at the Black Bush ranch road. The Arizona Trail follows the ranch road for one mile and then turns north on trail #120. The trail drops into scenic upper Cottonwood Canyon, reaching perennial Cottonwood Spring in about one mile. Further down the canyon at a tank and old corral, the trail follows a 4-wheel drive road (FR341) out and then back into lower Cottonwood Canyon. The stream crossing at Thompson Spring is the junction with a spur trail leading out to Frazier trailhead just south of Hwy 188 (accommodates horse trailers). The trail follows FR341 out of Cottonwood Canyon where it connects with Trail #121. Trail #121 parallels the shoreline of Roosevelt Lake, passing near the historical Roosevelt Cemetery (Note: The trail continues along the roadway, crossing the Roosevelt Dam Bridge to connect with the Vineyard Trail at the north end of the bridge.)

Notes: Make local inquiries for availability of water. Water may exist at Rogers Spring, Reavis Creek, Pine Creek, Walnut Spring, and Cottonwood Spring (one of the best sources of water), but it is important to carry a reserve supply. Coming from the south, trail users should resupply at Walnut Spring. Klondyke is hard to spot going south to north and the path to it is very overgrown. Klondyke is fairly easy to spot going north to south, but the access and reliability problems remain. It is about 3/4 of a mile between Walnut and Klondyke Springs.

NOTE: Mountain bikes are prohibited from the Wilderness Area. Please use low-impact camping and backcountry travel techniques.

For more information:
Mesa Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, 26 N. MacDonald, Mesa, Az., 85211, 480-379-6446; Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, Hwy 88 HC02 Box 4800, Roosevelt, Az., 85545, 520-467-3200; Arizona Trail Association, P. O.Box 36736, Phoenix, Arizona, 85067, 602-252-4794.

Resources: Tonto National Forest Map; USGS Topos: Pinyon Mountain, and Theodore Roosevelt Dam; Tonto National Forest - Superstition Wilderness Map

IMPORTANT NOTE: This passage sheet is intended only as an informational document to introduce you to the many recreational opportunities provided by the Arizona Trail. Always refer to the appropriate Forest Service or topographic map before planning any outing on the Arizona Trail; do not rely on the information provided in this passage sheet alone. The Arizona Trail Association is not responsible for any personal injury, damage to property, or any violation of the law which may occur in connection with the use of this document. Please respect the rights of private landowners and permitees, observe all applicable rules and regulations, and always be prepared to encounter the worst that nature has to offer on the Arizona Trail. ©2002, Arizona Trail Association

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ATA welcomes articles and photos from trail users and volunteers. Please mail to ATA or e-mail: editor@aztrail.org

Who To Contact in the ATA

Here’s a helpful list of who to contact for some of the ATA’s resources. If you have suggestions or want to provide any helpful information to these individuals, they would like to hear from you. We are not publishing home telephone numbers, only e-mail addresses. If you do not have access to e-mail, please call our ATA telephone number, 602-252-4794, and leave a message. Remember, most of these fine folks are ATA volunteers, so give them some time to respond to your requests!

Helen Hill - Telephone and E-Mail Messages for Trail Work Events and the ATA Calendar - deserthill@worldnet.att.net
Deb Morgaina - Membership mailing list, databases, invoices, payments and other financial information - debaztrail@cs.com
Donna Russ - ATA Brochures and Videos - druss@worldnet.att.net
Larry Snead - ATA Tool Trailer, Segment Steward information - sneadlarry@qwest.net
Randy Warner - ATA Membership and Events - rwarner@jshfirm.com
Joanna Scruggs - ATA maps, trail information, apparel, merchandise, and books - az_plic@blm.gov

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