Spirit of Old West Adds to Success of Annual Meeting

The charm of crackling fireplaces and old adobe walls at the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club captured the hearts of members and guests who attended the ATA's 8th Annual Meeting on the chilly, but sunny midday event on Saturday, February 2, 2002. The meeting and luncheon were a great success and many expressed they thought it was the best ATA annual meeting they had ever attended.

Many honors were bestowed upon deserving volunteers who were being recognized for their numerous contributions to the Arizona Trail project over the past year. The three outstanding trail adventurers who shared their stories of "doing the trail" from border-to-border had the audience both spellbound and rolling in laughter at all of their unique escapades during their journeys.

Special guests included agency dignitaries from some of the Arizona Trail Partners. Joe Meade, Director of Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness, from the USDA Forest Service Regional Office traveled from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend the event, and gave a poignant message to the audience about the importance of volunteerism in America for the new century. He commended the Arizona Trail's cadre of stewards and the many volunteers of all ages who are responsible for the outstanding success of the Arizona Trail project.

In addition, Don Charpio, State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, and Jeni Bradley, CEO of Recreation Solutions, a national enterprise organization in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, were also among the agency Trail Partner leaders who attended.

Long-distance hikers Dave Hicks, of Phoenix, and Barbara Zinn, of Green River, Utah, kept the rapt attention of attendees as they deftly described the wonders of Arizona's backcountry and the many highlights of their treks. Beth Overton, one of the pair of women who made the first end-to-end mountain bike ride of the Arizona Trail, and now known as the "Sheilamonsters," provided tremendous humor to the event as she spun her "geographically challenged" accounting of their journeys and her stories of meeting quizzical cowboys riding their horses on the range who couldn't understand why two women were out there in the far reaches of their remote cattle ranches on their loaded-down mountain bikes. The finale of the event was a tribute to all of the Arizona Trail Segment Stewards, who were recognized for their leadership and dedication to their individual passages of the trail route. They unfurled a 300-foot long rope and snaked their way through the large dining room, each holding up a sign attached to the rope designating the section of the trail that they manage and monitor for the safety and recreational enjoyment of trail users.

Continued on page 3
The Arizona Trail
Our Vision...
a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing the state nearly 790 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities, and people.

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.

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by Jan Hancock

Our volunteers have done it again.
Every few years we submit a report to our Arizona Trail Partners, summarizing the volunteer work that has been accomplished. The Arizona Trail Partners are the federal, state, and county land managers who have signed formal agreements with the ATA to cooperatively develop and preserve the Arizona Trail.

The ATA’s volunteer contributions in the years 2000 and 2001 tallied up a staggering amount of hours, days, weekends, and weeks of work on the Arizona Trail project...58,809 hours to be exact... topping all records over the past eight years since the Association was founded, in 1994.

As you might expect, the largest number of volunteer hours were dedicated to work with the lands managed by the USDA Forest Service because more than 70% of the Arizona Trail is on Forest Service lands. Our troops of volunteers accomplished an amazing 36,137 hours of trail planning, construction and maintenance work on the combined Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests.

Work on the Bureau of Land Management areas of the Arizona Trail totaled 4,382 volunteer hours, and almost as many hours, 3,992, were devoted to developing the Arizona Trail in Pinal County on more than 40 miles of Arizona State Trust Land. Private, municipal, and Arizona State Parks lands were also included in the tally of volunteer work, but these areas comprise a much smaller combined total of 5% of the trail route.

That's the power of volunteerism...people working together toward worthwhile, lasting projects. That's the thrill of working shoulder to shoulder with thousands of other dedicated people who devote their "extra hours" to doing something for their community, their state, and their nation. Every volunteer hour puts our Arizona Trail project that much closer to the majestic statewide legacy we are creating for future generations. The pride you can all share as volunteers is almost beyond words. Just look at what you've done.

Arizona Trail Featured on
Cover of Valley Guide Tourism Magazine

A captivating photograph looking north out of the Superstition Mountains along the route of the Arizona Trail to a panoramic view of Roosevelt Lake in the Tonto National Forest graces the Spring 2002 cover of the well-recognized tourism publication, Valley Guide Quarterly, which is distributed to most of central Arizona’s hospitality centers, including hotels, tourist information centers, airports, and other travel-related venues. More than 60,000 copies of the full-color publication are printed every quarter. Christine Maxa, author of several hiking guides (Autumn Color in Arizona: 50 Great Hikes, Arizona’s Best Wildflower Hikes: The Desert, and Arizona’s Best Wildflower Hikes: The Highcountry), has written a six-page article featuring the Arizona Trail in the magazine. Maxa wraps up her article with a statement in agreement with many other authors of national publications, that the Arizona Trail is "a path that's close to Paradise."
Several special awards were also presented during the Annual Meeting to recognize exemplary efforts on behalf of the ATA. Plaques were presented to Carl Golnik, retiring from the ATA Board treasurer’s position, and Joe Winfield, National Park Service RTCA agency Trail Partner of the Year, and Arizona Public Service Company for Corporate Partner of the Year. A special “thank you” plaque was presented to Chuck and Maxine Lakin, of Lakin Milling Company, who hosted the ATA Annual Meeting at this private clubhouse.

Dick Wertz, representing the Wickenburg Trails Association, presented a significant contribution check to the ATA during the Annual Meeting. Trail leaders in the Wickenburg area who were instrumental in providing this donation to the ATA included Vivian Helmsworth, Nancy London, Dana Burden, Jan and John Creighton.

Suzanne Pfister, right, ATA Board Secretary and Chair of the Arizona State Parks Board, displays the Heritage Fund check for $44,878.00 that was awarded to the Tonto National Forest to help fund the construction of the Picketpost Trailhead on the Arizona Trail.

Maxine and Chuck Lakin, well-known Valley leaders in the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, made all the arrangements for hosting the ATA Annual Meeting at the Valley Field, Riding and Polo Club.

Marie and Denny Haywood, left, help support the “rope trail” that represented all 43 of the Arizona Trail Passages as they receive their Certificate of Appreciation from Eric Smith, ATA’s Vice President of Trail Operations. The rope held signage indicating which Passages had Segment Stewards and where additional stewards were still needed. The ATA is actively recruiting an additional 30-40 Segment Stewards to assist in dividing up the Arizona Trail Passages into smaller and easier-to-manage 5-to-10-mile segments.

Guest Speakers, from left, Beth Overton, Dave Hicks, and Barbara Zinn confer as they prepare the slides for their outstanding presentations about each of their separate border-to-border journeys on the Arizona Trail.
ATA List of Recognition for Outstanding Support 2001

The Arizona Trail Association extends its appreciation to the following Arizona Trail Partners, agencies, individuals, associations, organizations and corporate sponsors who are being recognized for Outstanding Support and Service to the Association. In addition to those listed, the ATA would like to express its gratitude to the hundreds of members and volunteers, too numerous to name here, who have offered their help and financial support with the Arizona Trail project in 2001. Our thanks goes to each one of you. The Arizona Trail could not move forward without you. If we have forgotten anyone it was not our intention and we sincerely apologize.

ARIZONA TRAIL PARTNERS AND LAND MANAGERS
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Coronado National Memorial
Arizona State Parks
Kaibab National Forest
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
City of Flagstaff
Pima County Parks & Recreation
Coconino County Parks & Recreation
Pinal County Dept. of Civil Works
Coconino National Forest
Tonto National Forest
Coronado National Forest
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OTHER OUTSTANDING SUPPORTERS
Aiessa Moyna, American Express
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American Trails
Amy Prince, Desert Botanical Garden
Andy Dzurinko, Governor’s Council on Health & Physical Fitness
Ann Caston, Patagonia Visitor Information Center
Annie McVay, Arizona State Parks
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Arizona State Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
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Brian Potursalski, Coconino National Forest Cate Bradley, National Park Service, RTCA
Briar Patch Inn
Carl Taylor, Tonto NF
Cheap Clothes
Chris and Janice Dunn, Arizona Llama Adventures
Christine Maxa, Author/Writer
Chuck Horner
Chuck Lauer, Historian, Author
Coconino County Board of Supervisors
Coconino Cycling Club
Connie Lane, Tonto National Forest
County Line Riders of Catalina
Cynthia Nemeth, City of Flagstaff
Dan and Melody Skiver, Rio Rico Stables
Dan Godek, SWCA Inc.
Environmental Consultants
Dawn Coomer, Maricopa Association of Governments
Deborah Tuck, Grand Canyon National Park Foundation
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Grand Canyon Council,
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Greg Hansen, Tonto NF
Huachuca Hiking Club
Jeff Olson, Millennium Trails Council, Washington, D.C.
Jeff Spellman,
City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation
Jerry Sieve, Jerry Sieve Photography
Jim Babbitt, Babbitt Backcountry Outfitters
Joanna Scruggs,
AZ Public Lands Information Center
Joe Winfield, National Park Service RTCA
JoEllen Lynn, American Express
Kelly Tighe, Author/Writer
Kent Taylor, Round Trip Bike Shop
Kevin Lockart, Tonto National Forest
Kevin McCombe, Tonto National Forest
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Liz Slauson,
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Michael Baker, Dorothy Garske Center
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Mountain Sports Bike Shop, Flagstaff
National Endowment for the Arts
Pam Gluck, American Trails
Paul Reinshagen, REI
Perpetual Marketing
Peter & Debbie Backus, Coyote Creek
Phoenix Zoo
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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Richard Corbett,
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Trish Callaghan, Coconino National Forest
Tucson Saddle Club
United Metro Materials
Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona
Walt Thole, Payson Ranger District, Tonto National Forest
Weatherford Hotel
Wendy Hodgson, Desert Botanical Garden

…MANY MORE MILES TO BUILD
WHY
by Jake Schas

Continued from the Arizona Trail Association’s Fall 2001 newsletter. See PDF version at www.aztrail.org.

Surprises of the good stuff could show up at any time, from a cowboy out riding the range for pleasure, to a family having a picnic at a trailhead. Human encounters are generally good. There are few long-hikers that don’t have much to gab about, be it about trail life or more likely, about his own trail story.

Generally this story is only understood by the non-long-hiker. That is, only a long-hiker will really understand and appreciate what is being told. For what actually occurs during a day’s hike is only really known to a long hiker. The casual hiker may hear the story, but really does not know the real feeling.

Another surprise might just be the trail itself. Now the trail may not be alive. Nope, it is just a road, a trail or a route. But hikers, after a few hundred miles or so, talk to or about the trail as if the trail were alive. We hikers talk as if the trail routed itself up and over the burnt, dry and rugged Bucksnort Mountain. Or we just plain and simple talk to and curse the trail as if it were a person.

Fortunately, with all this cursing and talking to one self, the trail is usually empty of others. On the AZT, for instance, I came across only twenty five or so other people on the trail, that is, if the 1000 or so Grand Canyon hikers are taken out of the mix.

Long hikers, though, often act as if the trail were alive. And it is alive with the larger mammals of the trail. The elk, deer, antelope etc., are great to see. Having a javalina squeal twenty yards behind you is one of those little surprises one really needs to experience to appreciate. To me, the little wild creatures are the “Cheetoess” of the trail. The pitter-patter of a mouse crossing one's sleeping bag; a humming bird hovering eye-to-eye with you, or a rattlesnake coiled up and ready to strike- these little creatures bring out the real life of the trail.

Even the so-called bad things of the trail, the dangers are often, in a sense, good. At least one needs to make them good, roll with the punches. Potential dangers are a part of the trail life, and long hikers need to adapt to them. Basically, dangers are just a step from happening. All hikers have varying ideas of bad trail life. A broken stove is disaster for one hiker, but an unhindering blessing to another. A missing re-supply box is small nuisance to many, but a big headache to others. Long periods of rain are a downer to many; there are not many long hikers that look forward to week-long rains. But, then, one must adapt.

Adaptation to adversity comes in many forms. Take adapting to long rains. One hiker might leave the trail and dry out in a motel, while another will keep on hiking until mosses grow on his pack. It is adaptation that matters. These different adaptation methods are good. If all hikers dealt with the trail in the same way, trail life would be a bit boring. We’d all be sleeping in the same areas, arrive at re-supply stops at the same time. If this were to happen, trail life would be a bit cluttered.

Fortunately, the trail forces hikers to be different. Being human helps defines each hiking style. Yes, all hikers must walk the trail. Hikers all have a pack, a sleeping bag, pots, and clothes. Hikers also must put in the miles. All the variables on and off the trail determine how a hiker’s style develops, which makes most hikers’ styles different.

My main guideline for my summer-long hike was simple: I was to walk every step of the trail north. All north bound progress was to be on foot. No cars, bikes or horses. Just my feet to propel me. I was to carry my pack to Canada as well.

To better accomplish this goal, I adopted a lightweight hiking style. When I left the Mexico border, my pack weighed in at 12 pounds without food and water. The essential items that I carried were all I needed to be safe, warm and comfortable, and at the same, lightweight. This low weight, in return, enabled me to travel more easily and efficiently, so much so, that I could hike in running shoes.

These ideas about hiking styles are my ideas. I am not professing a right or wrong style. Just my style of hiking. With these ideas, I combine many years of practice and experience. Going lightweight has a lot to do with a mind-set, your attitude toward this mind-set basically boils down to the following.

If you don’t have something, you don’t need it (within reason that is). Take the basics. No frills. One must do this according to one’s skills and comfort level. You must have a good knowledge of each piece of gear in your pack. More importantly, you should know how to use and repair each piece of gear efficiently.

With that said, a lightweight hiker must not be hard-headed. He must be adaptive to the current general conditions of the trail. When your feet start to swell from the mileage and the heat, fix your footwear: that is, buy new shoes or cut your current shoes to fit better. If you need something you don’t have, get it. If your 30 ounce sleeping bag is not warm enough, get a 40 ounce bag, even if you do gain 10 ounces. Or when heading into the desert, keep your pile coat. Sending the coat ahead to save weight is asking for a cold section of hiking. No frills doesn’t mean you should suffer. One must make sensible decisions on the trail.

Once on the trail, all bets are off. That is, all the preparations, past experience and forward thinking are not set in stone. The trail, your body, your mind and the "real world” (the world off the trail) will dictate how your hike will go. One must adjust to the input from all the variables that occur while on the trail. This adjustment should be done in the context of one’s hiking philosophy. The adjustment could be as simple as adding a pound of cheese to your food supply or taking an extra day off. A complicated adjustment would be the drinking of cow-infested, green slime water or hiking at five in the morning.

Some hard headness is needed, too, for it takes a large amount of gumption, fortitude and perseverance to complete a long hike. This hard headness incorporates the desire to persevere through all the obstacles that want to stop you. Preparation and experience help one to complete a long hike. But it is the will to see; to go, that pushes a long hiker. This will is tested many times during a hike; many times during a week or during a day, for that matter. This testing is part of the "good stuff," which is most of the draw of a long hike.

... one goes, one sees. But one has seen...
FIELD REPORTS

SOUTHERN REGION

Pinal County report from Chuck Horner
January 8-9-10

January 8th, seven volunteers gathered at the Tucson Wash segment north of Oracle for some maintenance work to reopen the segment for hikers.

This section is 5 1/2 miles long before joining an eight mile abandoned pipeline road. Our staging area was "Rabbit Ears Wash", so named by either Larry Snead, Merle Parmer or Jim Martin. Beside the trail where we camped is a tall saguaro cactus with the top looking like rabbit ears. The group did extensive brushing and some erosion control. January 9 and 10 were the same numbers but with a few volunteer changes. Those who stayed overnight enjoyed Dutch oven cooking for both breakfasts and dinners. Each evening we had a great campfire with a lot of short and tall tales. Thursday was cut a little short due to a rain storm (ended up being a shower). Thanks to Dave Babcock and his father Carl, Dave Hicks, Helen Hill, Merle Parmer, David Pendergrass, Larry Snead, and a senior in college from New York, Dan Stevens, who was job shopping and decided to join us for the three days to see a bit of Arizona.

February 5-6-7

Again, a group of volunteers who like to be out during the middle of the week working on the trail, met at the base of Antelope Peak south of the Freeman Road in Pinal County. This outstanding work force constructed a little over 1/2 mile of new trail. The views are just fantastic which makes for an excellent hike. My thanks to Dave Babcock and his father Carl, Merle Parmer, Dave Hicks, and Gene Gallagher, a California visitor spending the winter in southern Arizona.

Oracle Ridge Segment

Bev Showalter reporting for the County Line Riders of Catalina, Inc.

On March 30, the County Line Riders (CLRC) rode part of our segment for an assessment of maintenance needs. The morning started out sunny and crisp, heading into one of the most beautiful weather days I can remember. It was paradise! The area started from the Cody Loop Trail above Campo Bonito, south towards Mt. Lemmon. We started at 4300 ft elevation and went to approx 6500 ft. This report pertains to that section only. Quickly we developed a deep appreciation for those hard working folks who originally constructed this trail. The trail has held up amazingly well since the original construction, but 95% of the trail is in need, including creating benches, brushing, removing a LOT of loose rock, smoothing out berms, and improving outslope. In many spots the grade is difficult, and in some spots there are steep fall lines. Some water bars have created problems, and one part of the trail is so narrow and soft on the berm that my mule lost one foot over the edge. This particular area we will fix quickly, as a tumble off the trail and downhill would be serious for both rider/equine/biker. A part of the trail is not a trail at all, but a full 4x4 very rocky, popular 2-track road that people access from Peppersauce Canyon. We encountered Jeeps and motorcycles on this road. We were very happy to find water at Rice Spring (just off the 4x4 road) thanks to the rancher who maintains it. (God bless our ranchers who keep water holes active for us, them, and wildlife too)

As we stopped there for lunch, Dean Prichard’s dog found the Easter Bunny for us! What a cutie! He didn’t have any chocolate for us, but one of our trail crew volunteers, Len, did!

From Rice Spring area to Dan Saddle the grade is so severe it is impossible to traverse except the hardiest of hikers. A while back Dean Prichard proposed a re-route from the existing single track trail to Coronado Camp, creating a wilderness experience, bypassing Dan Saddle/Catalina Camp and that impossible stretch of 2 track road going straight uphill/downhill from Rice Peak to Catalina Camp. CLRC already has an agreement with the Forest to restore Coronado Camp and the adjacent corrals, much of which we completed until someone burned the roof off the 2-room building. Coronado Camp, built by ranchers in the early 1900’s, sits at the CDO creek which has running water a lot of the year. We will work with ATA and the Forest for the design and approval of this re-route. The trail lends itself to some of the most beautiful views of other mountain ranges and valleys on either side of the ridge. Many of the oak trees are huge, extending from 4 feet to 10 feet wide at the base, twisted by the wind over many decades. This segment is heavily treed, and shady in many spots, and in general very beautiful. There are some good, flat resting spots where you can stop and "glass" for miles. This ride was a very good one, and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely. Ongoing maintenance will be scheduled until done.

Chuck Horner, left, ties flags to mark the trail route with Bureau of Land Management trails specialist, Jim Mahoney as they examine the environmental features of the Arizona Trail south of the Gila River in Pinal County.

Kentucky Camp Projects

Stephen Wood, Arizona Trail Steward

February 2nd found Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists and Stephen Wood starting the trail realignment project in the Kentucky Camp meadow. There are several wash crossings that are straight in and out at unacceptable crossing grade and will be realigned at various points throughout the next year. The trail also has a segment right next to a barbed wire fence that has snared enough unwary victims to become a safety issue.

There was also some original tread that became a drain and needed some obstacles to prevent it from becoming a double track. Our crew of five split into two teams and went to work. One team completed the task of rebenching and moving the trail 1-foot further away from the fence line and tombstoning some rocks as an added safety barrier. The continued on page 7
FIELD REPORTS

other team began scouring the hillsides for large flat rocks to tombstone in the old singletrack. With a storm fast approaching, both crews worked quickly and as the rain and snow began to come down, wrapped up the first of several projects in the meadow.

On March 16th crews returned once again to Kentuck Camp to realign a wash crossing and also to tombstone some more rocks in the old trail. Fortunately we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather instead of the usual precipitation! Our group of ten did an outstanding job, including finding a much better alternative to the established realignment, and accommodating the cover up of both the old trail and the construction that had started on the previous “new” section. The new alignment mitigates a tight fall line turn, that, though much fun to ride through on a bike was not sustainable and was subject to heavy erosion. Thanks once again to SDMB and especially Dan Poryanda for thinking “outside the trail” and coming up with an excellent solution. We also welcomed Jean and Leroy, two new SDMB members on their first club outing, which was a work party, not a ride.

VOA volunteers pause for a quick photo during their outstanding efforts on the Whitford Canyon, Tonto National Forest section of the Trail.

CENTRAL REGION

Whitford Canyon - January 26, February 2, 16, & 17
by Michael Baker

Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona has built a short section of the new trail that will replace the portion lying on FR 660 in Whitford Canyon. Most of this section was hillside bench on moderate cross slope. However, the first part involves a difficult climb out of a major drainage. A switchback has been placed in the only section that appear not to be subject to rapid erosion. Large boulders were shingled along the upstream side to help further protect the new construction. Because of the amount of work involved in the switchback VOA combined some crewleader training exercises with work on the switchback on January 26 and February 2.

Thirty volunteers worked one or two days on a new section of the Arizona Trail in Whitford Canyon about 6 miles north by forest service road from where highway 60 crosses Queen Creek. Cindy Peck, of the Forest Service, Globe RD, was there to work and provide technical guidance.

Saturday evening VOA provided dinner featuring pasta and home-made marinara sauce. Roy Chavez, Superior Town Manager presented a video about the rich history of Superior as a center of Silver and then Copper mining. On Sunday, following a VOA breakfast of left over sausage, pie, and oatmeal, we did a half-day of work before folks began to scatter to home or a hike nearby. Very special thanks to Globe Ranger District for footing the bill for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Thanks to volunteers: Eric Anderson, Prince Arthur VIII, Michael Baker, Andrea Bauchamp, Ed Blanchard, Monica Brennan, Les Cherow, Deanne Clay, Mike De Cou, Tim DeChristopher, Jennifer DeWitt, Ken Fiebelkorn, Mike Galwey, Mike Henderson, Els Janus, Jack Janus, Jackie Keller, Daniel Knollmueller, Mark Roth, Dan Ruppert, Ken Ryan, Mike Snodgrass, Marge Sparks, Mark Stephens, Katie Stone, Richard Theobald, Dan Valles, Steve Walsh, Diane and Richard Wertz.

Whitford Canyon Northwest of Superior
Rick Obermiller, Segment Steward

Since January there have been six work events in Whitford Canyon, northwest of Superior. It has been a very busy time for me as a new Segment Steward helping coordinate the re-route of the Arizona Trail off Forest Rd 650 into the adjoining desert. The work continues!

Without the help of pros like ATA member Chuck Horner and Globe Ranger District’s Cindy Peck flagging the route and offering superior trail building guidance and Chief Steward Larry Sneed’s help in lining up corporate and group support and acting as crew leader on every event, it would have been difficult work indeed.

The first event jitters seem like a year away. Now I’m enjoying working with great volunteers and gaining a real sense of satisfaction that comes with building new tread.

The following is a recap of our activity this year on the southern half of the Reavis Passage.

January 26. For his Eagle Scout project, Boy Scout Jesse Walker brought 15 of his fellow scouts from Gilbert Troop 181. This hard working group completed about 1000 feet of new trail. Thanks, Scouts! Thanks also do Helen Hill, Merle Palmer, David Babcock, Jeff Pappas, Mike Carr, and Laddie Cox who helped out as crew leaders and crewmembers.

Feb 9. Tertulia Charter School from Phoenix proved that 12-14 year olds can do trail work, too. Teacher Marcus Mendoza and fifteen students completed a successful trail building event. Thanks to Bruce Nelson for serving as crew leader.

Feb 16-17. Michael Baker exercised his considerable expertise with a group from Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona. They constructed about 450 yards of manicured tread in addition to constructing a difficult switchback.

Wells Fargo Bank (See photo page 8)

March 9. In the spirit of volunteerism, Wells Fargo Bank chose an “Arizona Trails” workday in Whitford Canyon. Anita Fogarty brought 25 employees and family members to build new trail. Also joining them were three Globe High School ROTC members (yes sir!): Perry Melvin, Johnny Smith, and Dawn Dominc.

Green Valley resident Timmy Fearn also joined the group.

Phelps Dodge Corporation (See photo page 8)

March 16. Phelps Dodge Corporation continued its strong continued on page 8
support of ATA by committing 19 employees and family members as a “Phelps Helps” day. Ann Gibson’s group completed 1/3 of a mile of new tread in difficult terrain. Several members were surprised after digging up a sleeping snake but were relieved when the supposed rattler turned out to be a red racer. Phelps does help! The company also committed to sharpening our inventory of tools. Thanks Phelps Dodge!

American Hiking Society (See photo at right, above)

March 24-30. The American Hiking Society hosted a Volunteer Vacation on the trail with 12 volunteers who came in from nine different states, some as far away as New England. Cindy Peck came down from her new assignment in the Black Mesa Ranger District to supervise the event. Merle Palmer and Larry Snead also donated time as crew leaders. Shirley Hearn from AHS was the coordinator and camp cook and proved she is one of the best trail cooks around! Of course Larry Snead offered up his famous beer biscuits to kick off the event. This crew built 4/5 of a mile of magnificent trail (mostly bench work) in difficult terrain.

One afternoon Cindy Peck lead a hike on last year’s re-route through the actual Whitford Canyon and delighted participants with stops at “Grandfather” cactus, a minshaft, and several abandoned stone structures. A gila monster was spotted on the trail, a first sighting for me.

Other notable sightings for the out-of-towners were a rattlesnake (spotted by Merle), a collared lizard, tarantulas, scorpions, and beautiful blooming hedgehog cacti. On the last day, Larry Snead noted deer tracks and large cat tracks on the new tread—a tribute to trail building when wildlife follows your trail!

The Volunteer Vacation culminated with a visit to nearby Boyce Thompson Arboretum (a must see) and a fun-filled and congratulatory Mexican dinner at Superior’s Los Hermanos restaurant. ATA’s president Jan Hancock was in attendance to give special recognition and thanks to this wonderful crew.

Picketpost Mountain Climbers

Report from Segment Steward Tom Coulson

On February 9, 2002, volunteers worked on many sections of the Arizona Trail. The weather was very nice, so the next day, on Sunday, several ambitious workers gathered at Picketpost Trailhead to climb Picketpost Mountain. This climb came about due to many folks working below the mountain expressing an interest in the history and challenge of seeing it from the top. So we planned to climb it, using the old Army soldiers’ trail which proceeds directly up the West side, through a “crack” to the top. Once on top there are large flat areas, and the well-known “sign-in” mailbox full of interesting signatures and comments.

The views from the top make the steep climb worthwhile. (Elevation at the top is 3,750 feet.) There is a nice 360-degree panoramic view, looking down on Superior to the North, the Superstition Mountains and Weaver’s Needle to the West, and Alamo and Telegraph Canyons to the South. Everyone enjoyed the hike. Thanks for a very fun day to everyone who went up to the top of the mountain with us, and if you’d like more information about how to do this climb, contact me at 480-832-7257. (See photo page 10)
FIELD REPORTS

NORTHERN REGION
Highline Segment- Fall, 2001
Michael Baker & Danny Ruppert

On October 13 and 14, 2001, thirty one volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona, The Great Outdoors Club, and The Sierra Club joined Walt Thole of the Payson Ranger District, Tonto NF, to reroute a section of trail around a badly eroded and unsustainable section of the Highline/Arizona Trail west of Geronimo Trailhead. Over 250 hours of labor was required to complete about 500 feet of new trail and to obliterate the abandoned section of trail.

Heavy brushing and removal of large boulders was involved in setting the new tread. There was also about 15 feet of rock wall built. This took most of the time of a crew of six over both days. The excess material was transported by bucket to fill the abandoned 30” deep trench. Additional water diversion work will end its function as a water channel and allow this old scar to heal.

Ted Julius, manager of Camp Geronimo, kindly allowed us to use their well-appointed facilities. The pot-luck on Saturday night rendered everyone pleasantly immobilized. Anne Buehler captured the culinary prize (a Craftsman Tool Bag--what every woman wants and needs) for her scrumptious pound cake with raspberry-yogurt sauce.

So, there we were stuffed and exhausted at about 6:30 PM--most already looking forward to bed-time--when Stan Brown, Payson Historian (one of several distinguished titles) sat us down for a discussion of the rich history of the Rim area. Everyone stayed and stayed awake, because his presentation was fascinating.

Thanks to volunteers: Alyisia Cox, Ariane D’Sonza, Katie Kelberlau, Wendy King, Mathew Van Wormer, Melissa Scheiblein, Morgan Renner, Rachel Gross, Sasha Keyel, Teresa Simmons, Tim DeChristopher, Tyler Glembo, Anne Buehler, Cedric Buehler-Bosch, Jean-Michel Bohler Bosch, Yann Buehler-Bosch, Dan Shein, Dan Valles, Ken Ryan, Marc Brown, Marge Sparks, Marilyn Schrab, Richard Theobald, Shirley Armstrong, Steve Wieczorek, Michael Baker, Les Cherow, Laura Rubin, Danny Ruppert, and Marge Sparks

On November 17, Dany Ruppert and Walt lead eight volunteers in from Pine Trailhead to build waterbars and general trail maintenance. The December 15th work date was cancelled due to rain.

Closing the Gap - A Proposal for the Peaks Segment Report from Dawson Henderson

The Coconino National Forest has made the first crucial step towards completing the Peaks segment of the Arizona Trail. The Forest has issued a Proposed Action that lays out one possible route for 31 miles of the Arizona Trail from Flagstaff northwest around the San Francisco Peaks. The Forest is proposing the new trail skirt the mountain, outside the Kachina Peaks Wilderness boundary. Now is the time to comment on this initial proposal and encourage the Forest Service to move towards completion of this significant gap in the Arizona Trail.

The ATA is requesting that this new stretch of trail adhere to the vision of the Arizona Trail - that it be non-motorized. ATA also hopes that there will be sufficient trailheads spaced along the route, and that the trail connects to the Humphreys Peak trail - to the highest point in Arizona. A TA encourages you to send in your comments and support for the Arizona Trail to the Forest Service. You may review the proposal on the Coconino National Forest - NEPA website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa.shtml. Please send your comments directly to the Coconino National Forest, by phone to Connie Moen at (928) 526-0866 or by e-mail: cmoen@fs.fed.us.

Large Group Completes Trail Construction Workshop in Tucson

Though not an Arizona Trail work event, a weekend of crew training on 23 and 24 March was co-sponsored by ATA and the National Park Service - RTCA. It was attended by many ATA Segment Stewards from the Phoenix area, and even one couple from as far away as the Kaibab National Forest. The USFS also sent some of the Safford Ranger District Trail Crew employees out for training. Joey Klein, original IMBA Trail Care Crew member- now promoted to Trails Specialist for IMBA (congratulations Joey!) held a training session on trailwork, tools and safety.

The ATA Workshop incorporates local knowledge into the classroom and planning segments. A representative from the USFS, Laura Dupeé, was present to address issues such as NEPA that are involved in the trail planning process. The classroom portion finished, we adjourned to the field to review the new trail realignment in Tucson Mountain Park West. A number of less-than-desirable alignments were reviewed and changed due to group input with a couple of members staying in the field until 7:30 PM to prepare alignments for the next day. During Sunday’s field training five crews worked to build a solid foundation in the multiple aspects of trail construction. Several crews were assigned particular segments, one crew functioned as the transplanting crew and another crew worked as brushers. We rotated positions as often as possible in the crew itself so everyone could experience the benching and finishing processes. With the emphasis on proper methods and safety rather than completion we still accomplished a significant amount of work and the trail is scheduled to be completed on Saturday, April 6, 2002.
**Special Note:**
Forest closures due to extreme fire danger may cause some of the events to be cancelled.

Please call the event coordinator before scheduling a trip!

**ATA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**May**

**May 4-5**
Trail Construction/Maintenance Training Workshop, Sierra Vista area. This training event has limited space so sign-up soon. Space will be filled on a first come/first serve basis. For more details regarding location and times e-mail or call the contact Richard Corbett at: Kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or 520-623-0017.

**May 7-8-9,**
Pinal County 24 miles east of Florence south of Florence Kelvin Hwy. New trail construction. Still wild flower season. Contact Chuck Horner at 623-362-1999 or bchorner@mindspring.com

**May 11,**
Pinal County north of Freeman Road. New trail construction. Contact Anna Pfender at 480-893-6610 or mtbbabe@cox.net

**May 18-19**
Bucksun passage or northern most section of Kaibab National Forest trail maintenance. Plans will be based on amount of people. Bring work clothes, gloves, etc. Please RSVP for directions, etc. Primitive camping, bring your own food, no water available. High clearance vehicle recommended. Contact Mike Carr, (928) 779-4370 or Michael.Carr@nau.edu

**May 24-27,**
Come spend Memorial Day Weekend working on the Blue Ridge Passage of the Arizona Trail north of General Springs on FR300 Saturday evening meal provided along with dutch oven biscuits. Contact Larry Snead at 602-279-0443 or sneadlarry@qwest.net

**June**

**June 1,**
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY.
Be sure and celebrate and show your support of the Arizona Trail and all trails this day.

**June 6-9,**
Chief Trail Steward Larry Snead will lead a four-day work event on the Arizona Trail Blue Ridge Passage. We will be camping at the end of FR 123A and be working on the trail in and out of East Clear Creek. Saturday dinner provided along with dutch oven biscuits. Contact Larry Snead at 602-279-0443 or sneadlarry@qwest.net.

**July**
List of events coming soon. See www.aztrail.org for latest.

**August**

**August 10-11,**
Trail Construction/Maintenance Training Workshop, Flagstaff, AZ. This training event has limited space so sign-up soon. Space will be filled on a first come/first serve basis. For more details regarding location and times e-mail or call the contact Larry Snead at sneadlarry@qwest.net or 602-279-0443
National Trails Day is Saturday, June 1, 2002 - Hike for Health!

The theme for National Trails Day 2002 is “Hike for Health” because when you hike, ride or volunteer on the Arizona Trail you are not only performing a good deed for the environment, you are also improving your health. That’s right! Regular physical activity can lower your blood pressure and cholesterol, reduce chances of heart disease and cancer, lower stress levels and improve mental health.

Join in the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of National Trails Day - a decade of celebrating, building, maintaining and recognizing trails. Become involved with National Trails Day by joining an event hosted by the Arizona Trail Association that will be happening in an area near you. Or, if you desire, host your own event with family and friends. The four goals of National Trails Day include: (1) Promoting public awareness of and appreciation for America’s trails (2) Building partnerships among trail groups, businesses, and public land managers (3) Broadening the constituency for trails (4) Encouraging cooperative efforts among different trail users, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, runners and anyone else who enjoys being on trails.

Arizona Trail events are scheduled in “cool” Flagstaff if you’d like to get out of the desert heat on June 1st, and Tucson is holding a large event in “cool” Park Place Mall that will feature many outdoor recreation activities and organizations. These are just a few of the special events being scheduled on this special day. Be a trail supporter and get yourself, family and friends out on a trail this year to join the thousands of Americans who will be doing the same thing all over the nation on this banner day.

To find out more about the National Trails Day events scheduled on the Arizona Trail and other trails in communities around the state, check our website, www.aztrail.org, or visit the American Hiking Society website, www.americanhiking.org. A calendar of events is also available from Arizona State Parks by contacting Annie McVay by telephone at 602-542-7116, or by mail to Arizona State Parks, National Trails Day Calendar, 1300 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007.

ATA Featured at Event for 7,000 People

A very large crowd of more than 7,000 visitors attended the annual two-day weekend Open House at the Adobe Wildlife Center in north Phoenix in March, 2002. The Wildlife Center is managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and their staff helps restore injured or displaced wildlife that are returned to their natural habitats in Arizona.

The crowd was treated to special stage demonstrations on mule packing throughout both days by two of the ATA’s Segment Stewards, Dennie and Marie Haywood. These talented volunteers and their very accommodating mules, Rabbit and Queen, answered the questions from thousands of visitors about their mules and what they do as Segment Stewards with the Arizona Trail Association. It’s a wonder their patient, well-trained mules had any hair left on their soft noses after they received all of the special petting and hundreds of kisses from all of the children in the crowd! The event was featured on XTRAradio and the program “Outdoors Arizona” radio talk hosts, Jim and Darla Soloman were on hand both days to feature the exhibits and presenters.

At left is Joanna Scruggs, manager of the Arizona Public Lands Information Center, who joined together with the Arizona Trail Association to help inform the more than 7,000 event attendees about the adventures that can be found on the Arizona Trail. Joanna is pictured with the white mule, “Rabbit,” Denny Haywood, the bay mule “Queen,” and Marie Haywood.

“Gee, Mom, it’s nose is so warm and soft!” Thousands of youngsters joined young admirer Peter Godfrey (3½) in rubbing “Rabbit’s” nose, one of the two mules that charmed the visitors at the Adobe Wildlife Center Open House. Mother Amy shot the photo.
Sign Up Now to Hike and Ride the Arizona Trail

ATA’s Membership Committee chairman, Randy Warner, and a growing group of well-informed trail leaders in the ATA have developed a list of some of the most beautiful and interesting places along the route of the Arizona Trail where they will be leading trail hikes, and bike and equestrian rides.

The hikes will appeal to groups of all ages, and many hikes are planned for families with younger children and grandchildren who are looking for their first, fun Arizona Trail experience! There will also be hikes and rides for teens and adults of all ages that are more challenging and that could be several miles in length or more.

The difficulty of the teen and adult hikes and rides will be varied between easy, moderate, difficult and most difficult so that a large number of people will be able to choose the hike or ride that best suits their level of interest.

Many geographic areas of the state will be included in the hikes and rides, with locations selected for the best seasons for viewing all of nature’s glory, including spring flowers, fall colors, awesome landscape photography opportunities and comfortable weather temperatures.

To get your name on the growing list of people who want to participate in these guided hikes and rides, please call the ATA and leave a message, or send an e-mail, drop a note in the mail, or contact a Segment Steward in your area and you will be included on the mailing list of upcoming events that are being planned.

Events are subject to seasonal forest closures due to high forest fire danger, or other natural outdoor occurrences, and group sizes will be limited to 12 people or less in Wilderness areas. If you have a special area, such as the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, that you’ve always wanted to visit but have never actually been there, now is the time to “get on board” for all of these special adventures planned just for you!

Board of Directors Seeks Southern Arizona Representatives

With the growth in membership of the Arizona Trail Association, the Board of Directors will be expanding in size to include four new members. The northern and central regions of the state are generally well-represented in Board membership, but the areas south of the Gila River to the Mexico border need additional representation. If you know a strong community or business leader with an interest in non-motorized outdoor recreation or environmental education, preferably who resides in an area near the route of the Arizona Trail in southern Arizona, please recommend the individual to the ATA by contacting any of the Board members listed in this publication.

Want to Learn How to Build Trails the Right Way?

The Arizona Trail Association is pleased to announce a series of Trail Construction/Maintenance Training Workshops this spring for ATA members and all trail volunteers. These workshops are made possible by a grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. If you are interested in doing trail work on the Arizona Trail or any other trail, we urge you to attend one of these workshops to better understand how to construct and maintain our trails the RIGHT WAY.

Each training event has limited space so sign-up soon for the workshop of your choice. Space will be filled on a first come/ first serve basis. The dates and contact persons are listed below. For more details regarding location and times e-mail or call the contact person listed.

March 23-24…Tucson Mtn. Park. Contact Mark Flint at: markflint@earthlink.net or 520-299-9151
April 20-21……BSA Camp Geronimo, Payson, AZ. Contact Larry Snead at sneadlarry@qwest.net or 602-279-0443
May 4-5………Sierra Vista area. Contact Richard Corbett at: Kc7qvm@dakotacom.net or 520-623-0017

There also will be two workshops in the Flagstaff area this summer. One will be for trail workers and the other for Crew Leaders and AZT Segment Stewards. The Crew Leader Training dates are August 10-11 but the location has not been set. For more information about either of these workshops contact Larry Snead at contact information listed above.

Every participant will receive a special ATA Trail Crew cap and a great workbook along with lots of take home material about the proper way to build and maintain trails. Hope you can join us.

The Arizona Trail Association is offering a series of specially funded Trail Construction and Maintenance Workshops sponsored through a partnership agreement with the National Park Service on the many miles to build.
**Alamo Canyon Passage**

**Picketpost Trailhead to Tonto National Forest Boundary***

**General Information**
This passage brings the Arizona Trail south from the trailhead at Picketpost to the Tonto National Forest southern boundary with the White Canyon Wilderness. South of this boundary (marked with two carsonite AZT signs), there is no developed trail connecting the AZT to the confluence of White Canyon and Walnut Canyon at this time. Proceeding south from Picketpost, users will find 4X4 wooden posts with the AZT logo as well as rock cairns to guide the way. This passage is currently comprised of trails, primitive roads and routes through drainages. Eventually it will be single-track trail.

**Location:** South of Highway 60, west of Superior on the Tonto National Forest.

**Length:** 13 miles from the PP trailhead to the Tonto National Forest boundary.

**Difficulty rating:** Moderate

**Recommended Seasons of use:** Fall, Winter, Spring

**Access:** Turn south on Forest road (FR) 231 from Highway 60 approximately .4 miles east of milepost #221, which is 5 miles west of Superior and 1.7 miles west of Boyce Thompson State Park. Progress .2 miles past a corral and windmill until you reach a “T” intersection. You will see directional sign for the trailhead at this location. Turn left (east) onto an old asphalt road and continue approximately .6 miles to the trailhead. The GPS coordinates at the trailhead are: N33 16.32 W111 10.59. Elevation is approx. 2392’.

**Trail Route Description:** The trail follows old two-track jeep trails in and out of Alamo Canyon. It proceeds south through the Alamo Canyon drainage. It is marked with 4X4 posts and large rock cairns. At approx. 3.4 miles you will come to Picket Windmill, usually a reliable source of water. At this point the trail returns to the wash and continues up the wash about 1 more mile, where it then leaves the wash and climbs up toward FR4. From this point you will have a steady climb on single-track trail up to FR4. Pass through a gate and at the road turn left (follow the AZT signs) and go southeasterly for 1.5 miles. After 1.5 miles there is a sharp hair-pin turn where the AZT leaves the Forest Road 4 and climbs up near a mine and proceeds south on another old two track road.

Follow the rock cairns until you see a 4X4 AZT post to your right-on the east side of the wash (N33 11.35 W111 08.06), indicating the trail leaves the wash and travels up the hill toward Wood Canyon. From this point on to the Tonto National Forest boundary, the trail is single track. Continue east through Wood Canyon, watching for rock cairns to guide the way. The trail will eventually turn south into a small canyon-staying on the west side, then turn east and climb up onto a “saddle”. There is a cattle fence here as well as an AZT carsonite sign. This is a good camping site with beautiful mountain views. Passing through this fence, proceed down the trail about .5 mile to the boundary marking the southern edge of the Tonto National Forest. This spot is marked with two carsonite signs and the coordinates are: N33 10.32 W111 07.13 (elevation is 3730’) This ends this segment of the Arizona trail at this time. There is no established trail through the White Canyon Wilderness, although you can follow a faint path south down to Battle Axe road (approximately 3 miles).

**Notes:** FR 4 bisects this segment. Following it east and north from the AZT trail crossing for approx. 7 miles will lead to the town of Superior where food, lodging and supplies are available. This is the high country of the Sonoran Desert with many great views and spectacular sunsets. There are many good campsites but water is scarce. Walnut Spring on Battle Axe road (actually an artesian well with a four inch steel pipe casing) is found at the confluence of White and Walnut Canyons and is a reliable source of water. Hikers are advised to check with local Forest Service or BLM personnel or ATA Segment Steward for current information.

**Resources:** Tonto National Forest Map: USGS Topo maps: Picketpost Mountain, Mineral Mountain and Teapot Mountain quadrangles.

For more information contact
Globe Ranger District, Tonto National Forest. 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe Arizona, 85501, 520-425-7189; or Bureau of Land Management, 126661 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, Az. 85748, 520-258-7200.

*Unlike most Trail Access Maps produced by the Arizona Trail this description is from North to South. This is due to the proximity of Picketpost Trailhead to the metropolitan area and the expectation that most users will be traveling from north to south until the trail areas south of this passage are completed. Please use leave-no-trace minimum impact techniques along all passages of the Arizona Trail.
**Arizona Trail Merchandise**

**T-SHIRTS**
Beautiful full color design. Call for shirt colors and sizes available.

**TRAIL MUGS**

**AZ Trail BALLCAP**

**Become an Arizona Trail Member**

*The Arizona Trail* needs your active support. Help build this resource for today and a legacy for future generations. Join *The Arizona Trail Association* and become a volunteer!

Would you like to volunteer in any of the following ways?
- Help build and maintain *The Arizona Trail*
- Become a Segment Steward
- Assist in Phoenix office
- Distribute Trail and event information in your area
- Donate materials or professional services
- Specify: __________________________
- Help raise funds for *The Arizona Trail*
- Recruit additional volunteers
- Membership services and development
- Other: __________________________

What are your primary non-motorized trail activities? (check all that apply)
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Other

**Types of Membership** (please check one)
- Individual
- Family
- Student
- Senior
- Organizations with budgets less than $25,000
- Organizations with budgets greater than $25,000
- Trailblazer Member
- Trail Patron
- Lifetime Member
- New Member
- Renewal Membership

Additional Information: (please fill in any that apply)
- I am sending an additional contribution of $__________ for Trail Development.
- This is a Gift Membership.
- Referred by: __________________________

All donations are tax deductible.

Make check payable to Arizona Trail Association. Mail check to:

**ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION**
**P.O. BOX 36736**
**PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85067**

(Do not include merchandise orders. Merchandise orders use separate check and mail to merchandise address.)

**NAME**

**ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS**

**ADDRESS**

CITY STATE ZIP

**PHONE**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

---

Mail order to: Arizona Public Lands Information Center
222 North Central, Ste. 101, Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602-417-9300-telephone or 602-417-9556-fax)

Please phone first for availability on all items. We will return your check if an item is no longer available.
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
Donna Russ - ATA Brochures and Videos - druss@worldnet.att.net
Larry Snead - ATA Tool Trailer, Segment Steward information - sneadlarry@qwest.net
Randy Warner - ATA contributions, donations - warner@aztrail.org
Becky Ohlau - Membership mailing list and database - rco@u.arizona.edu
Carl Golnik - Invoices, payments, and other financial information - cgolnik@qwest.net
Joanna Scruggs - ATA maps, trail information, apparel, merchandise, and books - az_plic@blm.gov

Leave a Legacy - Touch the Future

Every day people like you support our organization through your membership, making an annual gift, attending an event, or volunteering your time to help others. Whatever your connection, we’re grateful for your support, and you mean a great deal to us.

We hope that you feel your participation in the Arizona trail Association is appreciated and an integral part of our success. We hope you feel you are touching the future.

Another significant way you can help the ATA in the future is to consider leaving a legacy through your will, life insurance policy, or trust. It could be a percentage or a specific dollar amount of your estate, IRA, or 401K plan.

Your gift, no matter the size, will insure the health and strength of our organization to serve future generations.

If you would like to participate in this program you can contact the Arizona Trail Association at 602-252-4794 or you can find more information at www.LeaveALegacyArizona.org.

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