Great Progress Being Made On The Trail

As we launch into the fall season and begin our trail construction and maintenance work in the Sonoran desert regions of the Arizona Trail, we can look back and be very proud of the significant progress that was made during these past summer months on the Trail, especially up in the higher mountain elevations.

We owe an enormous amount of gratitude to the hundreds and hundreds of volunteers, ATA Trail Stewards, and our dedicated agency partners who have invested thousands of hours of planning, route flagging and trail work to make all of this exciting progress possible.

Our Chief Trail Steward, Larry Snead, and Board Vice President of Trail Operations, Eric Smith, have provided our newsletter readers with the following overview of the great progress made thus far this year. You may also read more detailed reports submitted by ATA’s Trail Stewards, who are our leaders out in the field who make this all possible.

SOUTH TO NORTH

Beginning our progress report at the Mexico border, Regional Trail Steward Steve Saway relates that 80 volunteers from the Huachuca Hiking Club and other community groups recently conducted a major cleanup effort along the route of the Arizona Trail in the Huachuca Mountains. The Huachuca Hiking Club has continuous programs of trail workdays year round, and this group has been involved in building and maintaining the Arizona Trail in southern Arizona for the past 9 years. Steve Saway also reports that most deadfall trees from forest fires in recent years have been removed, but continued deadfall and erosion are anticipated in heavily damaged forest fire areas. According to Steve, many new grasses in fire-ravaged areas are doing well, helping to slow the erosion, and many nice sections of high elevation forest still exist along the Trail route.

Moving north into the Canelo Hills area, Trail Steward Richard Corbett has been having much success due to the multiple work events that have been scheduled. Richard lives in Tucson and he has dedicated his efforts, along with scores of volunteers, who travel to this area south of Patagonia to conduct much needed trail maintenance work. The progress they have made is outstanding, and this is the most trail work the Canelo Hills passages have seen for years. These sections of the Trail with their rolling hills and expansive views are unlike any others on the Arizona Trail. They are a perfect choice for all trail users to enjoy - hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians - almost year round.

ATA Board member Steve Anderson has continued his focused efforts in working with the Arizona State Land Department to secure the necessary perpetual easements for the Arizona Trail route south of Interstate 10 in Tucson in the Davidson Canyon area, and north of Interstate 10 in the Rincon Valley. Steve is making great progress in finalizing the route location for the Arizona Trail in this area.

North of Tucson, between Oracle and the Gila River, the passages of the Arizona Trail that are located in Pinal County will see the results of a summer of painstaking route planning and flagging for the fall and winter trail work crews that are scheduled to begin construction on these new trail segments, beginning in November. The American Hiking Society is conducting a Volunteer Vacation in Pinal County, a full week with 12 volunteer trail worker participants from 9 states and Canada. The Sierra Club will also send a large crew of volunteers to help in new trail construction in this area, and the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona will be out for three weeks constructing new trail, made possible through a generous grant from the National Park Service’s RTCA program.

Kent Taylor, new Regional Steward for Pinal County and the owner of Round Trip Bike Shop in Casa Grande, is working closely with ATA Board members, former Arizona Trail Steward Cynthia Lovely, Larry Snead and representatives from the State Land Department to help ensure long-term corridor protection for the more than 50 miles of the Arizona Trail routed through Pinal County. The ATA has been conducting frequent and very
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Executive Director Position Changes for 2004

Denise Meridith, ATA’s Executive Director, has informed the Board of Directors that she will not be able to continue her position with our organization in the coming year. Denise has brought much progress to the development in the ATA this past year in her work with Congressional representatives in our efforts to secure National Scenic Trail designation for the Arizona Trail. She will continue to work on our behalf as a volunteer on this effort with our ATA National Scenic Trail Committee.

ATA would like to thank Denise for her one-year tenure with our organization, which was partially supported by a generous one-year grant for her position from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. Denise worked effectively to expand the ATA Advisory Board and she recruited many new community leaders to this group over the past year. Her efforts also included the creation of the “My Mile” project, a unique fund raising program that has been successfully expanding since its inception.

The Board of Directors has appointed Chief Trail Steward, Larry Snead, to serve as Interim Executive Director through the transition period until a new Executive Director can be selected and appointed. The Board plans to have this position filled before the end of this year. The Executive Director position has been partially funded with another one-year grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, and the term of this position will begin in early 2004.

The Board and new Executive Director will also select a new Administrative Assistant or an association management company to manage our organization’s accounting, database, and membership records, as well as support the new Executive Director’s activities in 2004. ATA’s former skilled and experienced treasurer and database managers, Carl and Shirley Golnik, with able assistance from ATA volunteer Donna Thrasher, are managing all of the ATA’s accounting and membership records during this transition period.

We wish Denise Meridith great success in her future work with her entrepreneurial company, Denise Meridith Consultants, and we hope to see her taking a break and enjoying a hike or ride soon on the Arizona Trail!

Tenth Annual Meeting Scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2004

A very important milestone is quickly approaching! The ATA will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at the upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled on Saturday, February 7, 2004, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jeff Williamson, Chief Executive Officer of the Phoenix Zoo, has graciously invited ATA to be the guests of the Phoenix Zoo on this special day. The ATA has had a special partnership with the Zoo over past years because our ATA volunteers have provided the trail construction tools helped build some of the trails in the Zoo’s Arizona Trail exhibit, which features wonderful displays of Arizona’s wildlife.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Zoo’s large “Stone Pavilion” meeting room, which is located very near the entrance to the Zoo. ATA members and guests can come an hour early at 9:00 a.m. and take a fascinating walking tour of the Zoo’s expansive Arizona Trail exhibit, which is also located right at the entrance area.

ATA members will be receiving an Annual Meeting invitation, ballot to vote in the election of next year’s ATA officers, and a Luncheon Reservation Form in the mail at the beginning of January. In addition, the next issue of ATA News will have an Annual Meeting Luncheon Reservation Form. The invitation will include a map and driving directions to the Phoenix Zoo and meeting location. All Annual Meeting event information will also be available in December online at the ATA website, www.aztrail.org.

ATA members, friends, volunteers, spouses and significant others are all invited to the Annual Meeting every year. This event recognizes the efforts of our many volunteers over the past year, and the election of new ATA officers is also held at the morning Members’ Meeting. Because this is a very special anniversary event, the event committee would like to publish a commemorative document that celebrates our organization’s first decade of accomplishments.

This will be a very exciting meeting and many community leaders and agency partners will be invited to help our organization celebrate our first ten years of success. Our event committee would be very appreciative of anyone who would be willing to volunteer his or her assistance in helping to make this 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting a huge success.

Volunteers can become involved with all of the fun event preparations by contacting the ATA by mail, telephone, or e-mail. We will also need helpers the day of the event to set up for the morning Members’ Meeting, and to help with the logistics of checking in guests and assisting the caterers.

Be certain to have your ATA membership status current by the end of 2003 so you will be on the mailing list to receive your ballot and information about all of the special plans for the upcoming meeting on February 7th, because this is definitely an event you won’t want to miss!
promising meetings with the State Land Department to pursue a perpetual easement for the Arizona Trail in Pinal County. In fact, the State Land Department has just recently become one of the new Arizona Trail Stewards in this area, and much progress is being made through the great lines of communication that have occurred as a result of this new stewardship. A perpetual easement would require appraisals of the trail corridor land value and purchasing the easement for the route of the Arizona Trail. This will require a special ATA fundraising effort in 2004 because our current 10-year State Trust Land leases begin to mature in 2005-2006.

North of the Gila River, ATA and Bureau of Land Management representatives have been out in the field for the past 6 months researching and flagging possible alignments for the uncompleted areas of the Arizona Trail in this very rugged and remote area. This section of the Arizona Trail will meet the Tonto National Forest sections of the Trail, which are currently routed on primitive roads to Pickettop Mountain and Highway 60. Trail Steward Tom Coulson, Tonto National Forest representative Connie Lane, and other ATA and Tonto National Forest – Globe Ranger District representatives have been out in the field making wonderful progress on the planning for a new single-track trail route, taking the Arizona Trail off of the primitive roads. This could involve building up to 10 miles of new trail, adding more backcountry beauty and serenity to the Arizona Trail in this area.

The Tonto National Forest – Payson Ranger District reports they will have a crew working on the trails late this summer and fall on the Arizona Trail corridor within the Mazatzal Mountains. Also on the Tonto National Forest, Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona and other groups continue to complete outstanding upgrades to the Arizona Trail near Camp Geronimo, located just under the Mogollon Rim.

North of the Mogollon Rim, in the Coconino National Forest, a very large amount of progress was made on the Arizona Trail during the summer months, thanks to huge numbers of trail crew volunteers and the outstanding leadership and dedicated efforts of key agency representatives in the Mogollon Rim Ranger District and the Mormon Lake/Peaks Ranger Districts. A 6-mile section of the Arizona Trail between the Ashurst Lake AZT trailhead and Forest Road 132 north of Mormon Lake Lodge was also completed. Additionally, a Federal Highway Department funding grant from the Recreational Trails Program was awarded to the Coconino National Forest Trail Crew to perform trail maintenance on 29 miles of the Arizona Trail just south of Flagstaff.

North of Flagstaff in the San Francisco Peaks area, extensive agency and ATA planning and months of work on the Environmental Assessment for approximately 30 miles of new trail is nearing completion and the ATA is anxiously awaiting the decision this fall on the approval of the Environmental Assessment. ATA would like to thank its members who sent letters of support for this important and spectacular section of the Arizona Trail, and everyone who sent letters should feel proud of your participation in this effort. When completed, this section of the Arizona Trail will be the highest elevation point along the entire statewide route, providing panoramic views to the Grand Canyon and an unsurpassed trail route that takes trail users through picturesque aspen trees and conifer forests.

North of the Coconino National Forest and the San Francisco Peaks, Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department is working closely with the Babbitt Ranch to establish the Arizona Trail route across checkerboard-ownership lands to the boundary line of the Kaibab National Forest. Babbitt Ranch has agreed to donate public trail easements on their privately held land, but the trail route in this passage requires crossing corners of Arizona State Trust Lands, thereby requiring the purchase of perpetual easements. The process of securing the easements on these State Trust Lands is almost completed after many months of planning meetings, all made possible through the support and unyielding perseverance of Coconino County.

And finally, as we look to the top of our state in the Kaibab National Forest, (both south and north of the Grand Canyon), the Arizona Trail conditions are reported to be excellent, thanks to the dedicated efforts of many Trail Stewards and Land Managers who are maintaining the trail over several hundreds of miles. The connection between the northern boundary of Grand Canyon National Park and the Kaibab National Forest is the last one-mile link to be made between the San Francisco Peaks and the Utah border, and the North Rim agency representatives and Trail Stewards Glenn Jordan and George Hay, along with members of the Arizona State Horsemen’s Association, have been working hard all summer and are nearing completion of this connecting section, including a new gate at the boundary line.

ATA wishes to express sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated stewards, volunteers, land managers, supporting members and the multitude of organizations and corporations who have invested their support and worked on the trail this past season. Your efforts are bringing the completion of the Arizona Trail so much closer and so much quicker as each week and each month passes. What an outstanding legacy for all who have been involved in this magnificent statewide project!
ATA Conducts Youth Trail Steward Program

Thirty-one sleepy-eyed but enthusiastic teenagers gathered in front of Tempe Accelerated High School a morning buzzing with excitement, despite the fact that it was before dawn, dark and chilly on September 20. They were about to board a bus headed for the Junior Trail Stewards Workshop near Mormon Lake Lodge. Thanks to a grant from REI, and cash and in-kind contributions from other government partners, ATA Advisory Council and Board members, and ATA volunteers, these Valley youth from the HS and the Girl Scouts received training in wildlife, land ethics, map-reading, trail building, and other outdoor skills. They even built 1/4 mile of trail that afternoon! They went home that night with a bagful of donated gifts and a better appreciation for and love of the outdoors.
Wilderness First Aid Training Opportunity
by Eric Smith

Are you a hike or ride leader? Do you lead or assist with trail projects? Have you ever wondered how you would respond to an injury or an illness in your group, especially if medical assistance is hours or days away?

Once again, the Arizona Trail Association is desiring to team up with Wilderness Medical Associates to coordinate a first level, 12-24 hour Wilderness First Aid Course. The training course is a combination of classroom activities and fieldwork (i.e., simulations) in a remote setting, with an emphasis on extended patient management, extreme environments, and limited available equipment.

A minimum of 14 participants is needed to put in a course.

NOTE: The last time we advertised this opportunity, 8 individuals showed interest and were placed on a list being compiled of interested individuals. Cost is not yet determined, and ATA members will receive a discounted registration fee.

Interested? Please contact me at eric.smith@cityofprescott.net, or call me at (928) 777-1560.

Arizona’s Forest Fires Take Their Toll on the Arizona Trail

The devastating fire season we experienced in Arizona this year has had its impact on some of our state’s most pristine and beautiful backcountry…including areas where the Arizona Trail route has been completed.

In many cases the brave firefighters used the Arizona Trail to reach some of the most remote sections of the fires in an effort to contain the flames that burned so many thousands of acres of forested lands and buildings.

This is the character of all trails located in wildlands….they are very vulnerable to nature’s whims and their remoteness is also what makes them so much of an adventure.

ATA stands prepared to help our agency partners rebuild the Arizona Trail where it has been damaged or has become impassable due to dangerous, charred trees ready to fall or the obliteration of the trail tread due to the tremendous erosion caused by the lack of vegetation to hold the soils after rain, and later this year, the snowfall. In addition, many Arizona Trail signs in these areas have been burned and destroyed, making trail route finding an extremely difficult challenge.

ATA will establish a special section on our website for reporting areas that have become so severely damaged that trail users are either not permitted or asked to not use these trail areas until these fire-damaged forested areas have the opportunity to begin the healing process, establish ground vegetation, dead trees can be removed from areas adjacent to the trail, and volunteers can replace the Arizona Trail signage that has been destroyed.

We need Arizona Trail volunteers and extra trail restoration funds when the USDA Forest Service sends us the message we are needed. If you live near some of the areas affected by the forest fires, and you would like to help in the restoration efforts, please let the ATA know so we can contact you when the time is right, which could be next spring or summer.

Below is a list of the Arizona Trail areas most heavily affected, and the status of trail use this fall. As closed areas open again, the ATA will make a special effort to communicate these newly opened areas via our website and the ATA News. We will have maps on display of some of the Arizona Trail areas affected by fires at our ATA Annual Meeting on February 7, 2004, so plan to attend to hear the most updated information.

Closed or Fire-Damaged Areas of the Arizona Trail:

1. Coronado National Forest – Santa Catalina Mountains east of Tucson, Aspen and Helen II Fires. The Aspen Fire was a human-caused fire that began just southwest of Mt. Lemmon and Summerhaven, and was one of the largest wildfires in southern Arizona history. It consumed over 80,000 acres and burned over 350 structures. The combined Bullock and Oracle Hill Fires of 2002, and the 2003 Helen II Fire further impacted this area. In some areas, such as the Canada del Oro watershed, the fire consumed large areas of vegetation, while in other areas, a mosaic-burning pattern exists. Many areas were successfully reseeded immediately following the fire. Coronado National Forest is currently assessing the entire wildfire area, and procuring funds for all types of rehabilitation, which includes some funding for replacing trails that have temporarily disappeared. While these efforts are underway, a large area within the Push Ridge Wilderness, which includes 25 miles of the Arizona Trail, is temporarily closed due to falling trees and severe erosion/risk of flash flooding.

2. Tonto National Forest – Four Peaks, northwest of Roosevelt Lake. Several years ago the Lone Fire ravaged the forested area in the higher elevations of Four Peaks, and both agency and ATA representatives have made gallant efforts to keep the Arizona Trail open, although many sections of the Trail are difficult to find and some areas have experienced heavy erosion and can be dangerous. This year, the annual REI Service Project will be held in this damaged Trail area. This November 15-16, 2003, a trail work event will draw many REI members and ATA members and volunteers. The ATA would like to thank Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona, the Tonto Basin Ranger District and the Valley’s REI stores for dedicating such tremendous effort and resources to this big event.

3. Coronado National Forest – Huachuca Mountains. In addition to the two major fire areas noted above, burned areas also occur along the Arizona Trail route in the Huachuca Mountains near the Crest Trail.

4. Tonto National Forest – Payson Ranger District. Several sections of forested land just below the Mogollon Rim near Washington Park and Forest Road 300 experienced fire damage as well.

The Arizona Trail in most of these areas still remains open, but there are areas where erosion or fire has severely damaged or blocked the existing trail tread. In some cases, depending on the extent of the damage, the tread can be restored in its existing location, and in others, some rerouting of the Arizona Trail must occur.

Please contact the land management agency if you plan to use the Arizona Trail in any of these areas. These agency representatives can give you the most up-to-date status of the areas that have either been restored or areas that are closed or dangerous to trail users. If we help repair the damaged areas and give the land and wildlife a chance to heal and prosper, the Arizona Trail
Blue Ridge Passage
by Larry Snead, Segment Steward

The weekend of Sept. 13/14 was a big one on the Blue Ridge Passage of the Arizona Trail.

We started on the General Spring Arizona Trail re-route project. This project is just north General Spring Trailhead and is needed to replace the existing trail which is so badly damaged by erosion that it is unrepairable and needs some serious rehabilitation. The re-route is located to the east of the existing trail and gets the Arizona Trail out of the riparian area. It is about a half mile long. We had a great group of teenagers from Scouting's Venturing Program helping us and this group was recruited and organized by Robyn Knoll, Secretary of Venturing Crew 124 and President of Grand Canyon Council Venturing Cabinet. We also had some great ATA crew leaders including David Klein, Pete Joyce and Lou Hoover. Mike Snodgrass, from ATA and VOAz, served as our Technical Advisor and Crew Leader Manager. Rose Harley and Frank Dickson provided us strong Forest Service Support. We exceeded our expectations regarding work accomplished and now have about a third of the project completed. We need some more route clearance from the Forest Service and will then complete the project next spring/summer.

Progress on the Canelo West Passage
By Richard E Corbett, Segment Steward

September 20, National Public Lands Day, saw nine dedicated Trail supporters, including me, join together for Trail maintenance on the east end of the Canelo West Passage (No. 3). Robert Best, Scott Casterlin, Bobby Gulbis, Ann Lee, Don & Pat Plank, Perrin Smith, Patricia Williams, and I did significant tread maintenance and brushing on about two miles of the Trail.

Work accomplished included reconstruction of two switchbacks, reconstruction of 12 rolling dips, tread filling/ restoration along about 100 feet, removal of two large rock outcroppings, removal of about 23,654 thorny acacia plants, and trimming of 11 oak trees adjacent to the Trail. Tread was cleared of loose rock, and about 1/2 mile of berm was removed. In most cases the berm material was placed back on the tread surface, and proper cross grade re-established.

Lunch was under the shade of trailside oak trees, and I provided rich pecan-chocolate cookies, and mini Snickers bars for dessert. We finished up mid-afternoon, and walked the two miles out. Robert Best, who has worked four consecutive Canelo West projects, brought an ice-chest of cold drinks for a special treat, upon our return to the Trailhead parking lot - thanks Robert!

Volunteers work on General Springs re-route.

Special recognition from the Mogollon Rim Ranger District for volunteer efforts is presented by District Ranger Larry Sears and accepted by ATA's Merle Parme.
Reports from the Field

Another in a Series of Hikes Lead by Arizona Trail Through-Hiker Dave Hicks

El Grupo Loco (as Helen named you),

You all did great! About 75 miles in 4 1/2 days. I have to admit that leaving the North Rim on Saturday September 13 I was a bit leery of how you would do. But after a few hiking miles, I began to relax as the group started working together and enjoying each other. And that second day, what was it 18 miles? Wow! I am proud of each of you. Blistered feet, sore legs and tired backs didn’t deter you. You pressed on. That’s why you are hikers. As Terry said, “I got myself into this and I’ll get myself out”. And that last day, 10 miles to the finish line. You would have thought we were heading for the finish line in an Olympic Stadium. Actually the AZT approaching the Arizona/Utah border is better. Congratulations on what you accomplished.

And I am very, very thankful for the SAGs. You made the entire adventure much easier and more pleasant. Your thoughtfulness and individual attention was primo. Taking care of 15 hikers was a big job. Thank you. Thank you. Thank You.

Wasn’t the trail great? Beautiful and in good condition. I can’t think of any bad stretches. Lots of trees, wide open spaces, splendid views, good camp sites, no mountains and the trail was distinct and easy to follow. Here’s the names and addresses of the trail stewards who take care, with little recognition, of the trail that we hiked. They sure have done a good job up on the AZT in this isolated area. Please let them know that you appreciate it: The Kaibab National Forest folks. I don’t know who all to thank there but they sure do a great job. Their stretch of the Arizona Trail has been one of my favorites for a long time. And the Visitor Center at Jacobs Lake was a big help in planning the trek too. Glenn Jordan - N. Rim to GC Park border; George Hay - GC Park Border to Telephone Hill; Howard Howell - Telephone Hill to Highway 89A No steward for this segment - want to volunteer? Highway 89 to Winter Rd; Mile Carr - Winter Rd to AZ/Utah Border. And don’t forget dedicated AZ Trail Association people like Larry Snead, Chief Trail Steward and Dawson Henderson, Regional Steward, who oversee the entire segment of the AZT way up north.

Finally, all of you who drove, thank you too. That’s a long drive. It was quite a coincidence that three carloads (Satwant, Helen and Lamont) of us stopped at the Wendy’s at Flagstaff, unbeknownst to each other, on the way home. Kinda says something about about the food on the trail. (Satwant, was that a ham burger you were trying to sneak out of there?).

That’s it for now. Hope to see you again soon on the trail.

Poco Loco, alias Dave Hicks

Oracle Passage

Happy Jack Passage

Oracle Passage

Happy Jack Passage

The crew that installed our newest gate on the AZT just south of Oracle State Park. Left to right in picture are Merle Parmer, Laddie Cox, (Gate Foreman), Carl Babcock, Dave Babcock and John Rendall.

Howard and Donna Howell. They decided to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary by working on the Arizona Trail on August 30th. Now that is dedication.
The following is some information that you might find helpful if you decide to hike or ride on a section of the Arizona Trail that is on Arizona State Trust Land. Most of the section of the Trail that we are currently building in Pinal County is on State Trust Land. And there are other locations around the State that the Arizona Trail either is currently or will be on State Land. Pinal County holds a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) which gives permission for the Arizona Trail to be there and a fee was paid by Pinal County and ATA for that permit.

If you are hiking the trail and stay on the trail all the time you are not required to have a recreation permit from the Arizona State Land Department. However, if you plan to explore off the trail or camp overnight away from the 15 foot Arizona Trail easement, then you must purchase an ASLD Recreation Permit which costs $15 for an individual and $20 for families. Permits are available at several locations throughout the state including the Arizona Public Land Information Center in downtown Phoenix. Call the Arizona State Land Department, 602-364-2753, for a complete list of locations. These permits are good for one year from date of purchase. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a trespassing fine.

If you are planning a group activity such as a horseback ride or mountain bike rally then you will need a Group Recreation Permit. The fee for a non-profit group of less than 20 persons is $15 for five days or $50 for a renewable annual permit.

We strongly urge all Arizona Trail users to purchase a ASLD Recreational Permit and always have it in their possession while using the Arizona Trail on State Trust Lands.

In addition, we urge you to alway be respectful of both the land and the other land leasees, including and most especially the local ranchers. Know the rules and regulations regarding using Arizona State Trust Land. State Trust Land is not public land. Please close gates and stay on the trail. Do not bother the cattle or wildlife and respect the fact that rancher developed water belongs to the rancher along with the tank, pump, windmill, etc. It is all private property. You may not use this water without getting permission from the rancher first or be in a life or death situation. ATA would be happy to provide you the Rancher's name and telephone number. Always carry your own water or stash it when you are on multiple day trips. And never, never cut a fence even if you think you know how to put it back together again. We are still building the Trail in Pinal County and there are several places we have not been able to get to as yet to install a gate. We would welcome your help with this project and it will get done faster.

Pinal County, the Arizona State Land Department, and the local Ranchers are all our partners in regard to the Arizona Trail Project on State Trust Land. We need their help and support in order for the trail to be there and stay there. Your understanding and acceptance along with your support and efforts, in being a respectful and responsible Arizona Trail user on Arizona State Trust Land and State Land Ranches will enhance a vital partnership for the future of the Arizona Trail.

Thanks for your support.

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New Arizona Trail T-Shirt Design to be Launched

A special commemorative 10th Anniversary T-shirt is being designed for ATAby volunteer Claudia Myers, an artist who has been designing T-shirts, patches, badges, and other products for the Arizona Cactus-Pine Girl Scout Council over the past several years.

Advisory Board member Tamara Woodbury, Executive Director of the Girl Scouts organization in Arizona, made all of the arrangements to have Claudia work with the ATA in the creation of this new design. ATA has been thrilled with the increased involvement of Girl Scouts in Arizona Trail activities, and we are very proud of this growing partnership with such an outstanding youth organization.

The T-shirts are scheduled to be available for sale at the upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 7, 2004, and will be available at the Public Lands Information Center or by ordering from ATA after that date.

The design is a very colorful pastel chalk rendition of the beautiful landscapes and unique flora along the route of the Arizona Trail, and features the canyon country experienced statewide. To see a full color picture of the new commemorative design, go the Arizona Trail Association’s website: www.aztrail.org.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

November

Sat, Nov 22, Tucson Wash Passage
This work event will include trail grooming and minor repair of any damage from the recent summer rains. We will work the southern section (5.3 mi.) beginning at the Tiger Mine Road Trailhead and ending at the old pipeline road. Bring lunch, water, gloves and any small instruments for brushing. Larger tools, soda's and extra water will be provided. We will meet at 7:30 AM by the Tiger Mine TH; which is 1.5 miles from SR 77 (Mile Post 105) on Tiger Mine Rd. (Mile Post 105 is 1-2 miles north of the town of Oracle). 4WD vehicles not required, but desirable to access the trail at several points. Contact JOHN RENDALL, 520 825-9395 or jbr@rosoncom.net

Nov 22-23, Boulders Segment (southeast of Florence)
Continue construction of new trail in the remote Sonoran desert on State Trust Land. For details and directions, contact Anna Pfender at (480) 893-6610 or mtbabbage@cox.net.

December

Dec 6, 2003, Canelo West Passage (south of Sonoita, southeast of Patagonia).
We will work the west end of the Canelo West Passage, near Patagonia, picking up where our April 2003 Project left off (about .85 mile in), and continue the brushing, tread, and structure work. Volunteers should bring a day pack with lunch, water (at least 4 liters), snacks, sun screen, a wide brimmed hat, work gloves, and shoes/boots & clothing appropriate for the weather (long pants and sleeves are best). As is standard, Richard will have a special treat for all who help with this Project. For info on meeting place and time (carpooling is encouraged and supported), please E-mail Steward Richard Corbett at: kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or call him at 520-623-0017 (E-mail is best). RSVP only if coming, please!

Sat, Dec 6, 2003, Southern section of Picket Post segment.
Meet Tom Coulson and other volunteers at the intersection of Battleax Road and State Route 177 (south of Superior 9 miles) at 8:00 a.m. We will then drive to the access point and hike 2 miles to the work site. Work is trail maintenance on existing single track trail. Bring water, lunch, gloves, hat and sunblock. This is a 1 day event however this area is very picturesque and is a nice place to camp. ATA will provide the tools. The Forest Service will support this event. We look forward to a fun and productive day on this remote section of the Arizona Trail. Contact Tom Coulson, 480-832-7267, azttrailhiker@aol.com.

Dec 7, 2003 (Sunday events with camping option Sat night), Ripsey Segment - Trail building, South of Superior (near Town of Kearney) Adopted by American Society of Civil Engineers Younger Member Forum Phoenix Branch. We are continuing to build a 10-mile section of the AZ Trail in a beautiful section of Sonoran Desert. Camping opportunities (primitive) are available for Saturday night or meet at the trailhead at 8 am on Sunday. Barbeque dinner and Beverages will be provided for those that camp Saturday night, sponsored by ASCE. Bring gloves, boots, sunscreen, water and lunch. Anyone who is interested is welcome to participate. Tools are provided and no prior trail maintenance/building experience is necessary. We will help coordinate carpooling opportunities, including those from Tucson. Please RSVP with Mike Luecker at (602) 438-2221- (work) or mluecker@j2design.us Additional directions and info will be provided.

Dec 13, Boulders Segment (southeast of Florence).
Continue construction of new trail in the remote Sonoran desert on State Trust Land. For details and directions, contact Anna Pfender at (480) 893-6610 or mtbabbage@cox.net.

Sun, Dec 15, 2003, Santa Rita Passage on the East slope of the Santa Rita Mountains.
Meeting point is always at the dirt parking area on SR 83 just south off Exit 281 Eastbound I-10. The meeting time for this event is 0800. Actual work location varies due to weather, USFS approvals, and size of crews present at the meeting point. We have been working the Gardener Canyon to Kentucky Camp segment over the past year. Sturdy shoes/ work boots required, long pants, gloves, and sun protection strongly sug gested. Work is at altitude and often in exposed areas, so sun protection like a high SPF lotion and a broad brimmed hat will lessen your chance of skin damage (it might be cool but you’ll still fry!). Bring 2-3 liters of water and a snack. Plan for approximately 4 hrs of work and up to 2 hours of travel time. Contact Stephen Wood at: azttraildoc@yahoo.com to RSVP (please) prior to the event or for further information.

2004 - January

January 10, 2004, Canelo West Passage (south of Sonoita, southeast of Patagonia).
We will continue working the west end of the Canelo West Passage, near Patagonia, picking up where our December 2003 Project left off (about 1.5 mile in), and continue the brushing, tread, and structure work. Volunteers should bring a day pack with lunch, water (at least 4 liters), snacks, sun screen, a wide brimmed hat, work gloves, and shoes/boots & clothing appropriate for the weather (long pants and sleeves are best). As is standard, Richard will have a special treat for all who help with this Project. For info on meeting place and time (carpooling is encouraged and supported), please E-mail Steward Richard Corbett at: kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or call him at 520-623-0017 (E-mail is best). RSVP only if coming, please!

Sunday, Jan 11, 2003 - Special "Camping" weekend- Santa Rita Passage on the East slope of the Santa Rita Mountains.
The cabin (heated/ furnished) at Kentucky Camp is available from Friday (01/09) afternoon through Monday (01/12) morning for interested parties. I will take reservations on a first come first served basis. The cabin will sleep about 6 people. The meeting time for this event is 0830 at the cabin at Kentucky Camp. Actual work location varies due to weather, USFS approvals, and size of crews present at the meeting point. We have been working the Gardener Canyon to Kentucky Camp segment over the past year. Sturdy shoes/ work boots required, long pants, gloves, and sun protection strongly sug gested. Work is at altitude and often in exposed areas, so sun protection like a high SPF lotion and a broad brimmed hat will lessen your chance of skin damage (it might be cool but you’ll still fry!). Bring 2-3 liters of water and a snack. Plan for approximately 4 hrs of work and up to 2 hours of travel time. Contact Stephen Wood at: azttraildoc@yahoo.com to RSVP (please) prior to the event or for further information.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events continued

Sunday, Jan 11, 2003 continued.
damage (it might be cold but you’ll still fry!). Bring 2 liters of
water and a snack. Plan for approximately 4 hrs of work. Buffet
luncheon after the event. Contact Stephen Wood at:
aztraildoc@yahoo.com to RSVP (please) prior to the event or for
further information.

Jan 11th, 2004, (Sunday events with camping option Sat
night), Ripsey Segment -
Trail building, South of Superior (near Town of Kearney)
Adopted by American Society of Civil Engineers Younger
Member Forum Phoenix Branch. We are continuing to build a
10-mile section of the AZ Trail in a beautiful section of Sonoran
Desert. Camping opportunities (primitive) are available for
Saturday night or meet at the trailhead at 8 am on Sunday.
Barbeque dinner and Beverages will be provided for those that
camp Saturday night, sponsored by ASCE. Bring gloves, boots,
sunscreen, water and lunch. Anyone who is interested is
welcome to participate. Tools are provided and no prior trail
maintenance/building experience is necessary. We will help
coordinate carpooling opportunities, including those from
Tucson. Please RSVP with Mike Luecker at (602) 438-2221-
(work) or mluecker@j2design.us Additional directions and info
will be provided.

Jan 31st and Feb 1st & 7th - Ripsey Segment – South of
Superior (near Town of Kearney)
Provide Support for Sierra Club Work Event. The Sierra Club is
having a volunteer vacation trail crew work on this section the
week of Feb. 1st thru 7th. Sierra Club Volunteers will be arriving
from all over the country to help build this section of Arizona
Trail. We need volunteers to assist with this work event by:
Greeting Sierra Club volunteers and providing transportation
from/to the airport to/from the worksite Feb. 1st thru 7th.
Campsite set-up including kitchen, water hauling, etc on
Saturday, Jan. 31st. Work Event prep including getting tools to
work site on Jan 31st. Contact Mike Luecker at (602) 438-2221-
(work) or mluecker@j2design.us if you would like to help
support this event.

February 21-22, 2004, Canelo West Passage (south of
Sonoita, southeast of Patagonia).
Options for 1 or 2 days. A 4-WD camp out project, near the west
end. This will be in one of the more beautiful parts of the West
Canelo Passage, in the Red Rock Ranch vicinity. We will 4-WD
in on the Red Rock Ranch Road, and camp near where the Trail
crosses this Road. We will work west of the Road, doing
brushing, tread, and structure work. Richard will bring the
fixings for spaghetti dinner Saturday evening, and have those
really naughty cookies for dessert. For information on what to
bring, and the meeting time and place (carpooling is encouraged
and supported), please E-mail Richard Corbett at:
kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or call him at 520-623-0017 (E-mail is
best). RSVP only if coming, please!

March 2004, Canelo West Passage (south of Sonoita,
southeast of Patagonia).
An American Hiking Society week-long event. We will be
working the east middle part of the Canelo West Passage, to the
west of the upper end of Meadow Valley, constructing new trail
alignment to replace really crummy 4-WD road. Tools will be
provided. Volunteers joining us should bring a day pack with
lunch, water (at least 4 liters), snacks, sun screen, a wide
brimmed hat, work gloves, and shoes/boots & clothing
appropriate for the weather (long pants and sleeves are best). For
info on this special project’s meeting places and times
(carpooling is encouraged and supported), please E-mail Steward
Richard Corbett at: kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or call him at 520-
623-0017 (E-mail is best). RSVP only if coming, please!

April 17, 2004, Canelo West Passage (south of Sonoita,
southeast of Patagonia).
A 4-WD day project, near the west end. This will be our last
project until Fall, in one of the more beautiful parts of the West
Canelo Passage - the Red Rock Ranch vicinity. We will 4-WD in
on the Red Rock Ranch Road, to continue from our February
2004 work west of the Road. We will be doing brushing, tread,
and structure work. Richard will have those really naughty
cookies for dessert. For information on what to bring, and the
meeting time and place (carpooling is encouraged and
supported), please E-mail Richard Corbett at:
kc7ovm@dakotacom.net or call him at 520-623-0017 (E-mail is
best). RSVP only if coming, please!

For latest updates and information on what to bring please go to our ATA website:

www.aztrail.org

Please call the event coordinator for more information about the work event (time & location). Locations listed above are subject to
change, and exact locations may not be known at the time of the calendar printing. Multiple day projects - volunteers are welcome either
day, or both days (unless backpacking/riding to the site is required).

ATA provides all tools. Please bring work gloves, water, and lunch. We recommend that you wear sturdy boots, long sleeves and pants,
sunscreen, and a hat. Overnight camping is often primitive (no facilities). Please bring your own camping/backpacking equipment and
food (unless otherwise noted).

Trail maintenance and construction may include any of the following: brushing (pruning vegetation), removing rock & debris, signing,
building rock cairns; construction or improvement of: trail tread, erosion control structures (water bars, drainage dips), switchbacks,
removing stumps/roots, etc. Difficulty of work is easy to moderate, distance to work site should also be considered. Work event
coordinators will provide instruction.

To receive an updated calendar or add an event, please contact the Arizona Trail Association: phone: 602-252-4794,
fax: (602) 294-4658, e-mail: ata@aztrail.org.
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Please phone first for availability on all items. We will return your check if an item is no longer available.

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!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

☐ Trail Helper $20

Newsletter, Patch, Membership card

☐ Trail Hand (Individual/Family) $50

Book, Newsletter, Patch, Membership card

SPONSOR

☐ Trail Supporter $500

Belt buckle, Newsletter

☐ Trail Builder $1000

Plaque, Newsletter, My Mile (one mile)

☐ Trail Supervisor $5000

Plaque, Newsletter, Logo/link on website, Mention atATA events, My Mile (five miles)

☐ Trail Boss $10,000

& more

Plaque, Newsletter, Logo/link on website, Logo on all ATA publications, Special recognition (e.g., invitations, table, banner, etc) at all ATA events, My Mile (10 miles)

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

☐ FUND-A-FOOT $1/foot

Certificate ($10 or more)

☐ MY MILE $100/mile

Certificate, Map of the mile, List of activities/contacts

☐ 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: __________________________

What are your primary non-motorized trail activities?

☐ Hiking ☐ Horseback Riding ☐ Mountain Biking

☐ Other. __________________________

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

ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 36736

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

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NAME __________________________

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PHONE __________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS __________________________
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
Carl Golnik - Membership mailing list and database, invoices, payments and other financial information - cgolnik@msn.com
Dave Hicks - ATA membership trail events - hicksdp@msn.com
Joanna Scuiggs - 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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