

Arizona Trail ASSOCIATION NEWS

News and Information on the State's border-to-border Arizona Trail project

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Spring - 2001

Arizona Trails Day Draws Thousands of Participants

More than fifty locations in Arizona held celebrations in honor of National Trails Day on June 2, 2001, with many thousands of outdoor enthusiasts "hitting the trail" for work events, fun hikes and rides. The Arizona Trail had its share of special events, and one special trail building event in Flagstaff drew more than 250 volunteers to a two-day weekend celebration on June 2nd and 3rd.

National Trails Day is sponsored by the American Hiking Society, with several hundred thousand participants nationwide every year. This was the 7th year the event has been conducted on a national level. The Arizona Trail Association has participated in this event every year since its inception. Major sponsors for the

statewide events included American Express, Arizona Public Service Company, Bashas,' Sunkist Oranges, and the Arizona Department of Health Services, Preventive Health and Physical Activity Programs. Many state, county, and community agencies, corporations and organizations also participated as sponsors in the National Trails Day celebrations held throughout Arizona.

A listing of many of the National Trails Day sponsors is provided in a special article featuring these supporters in this newsletter. The following articles describe some highlights of events held on the Arizona Trail to celebrate National Trails Day this year.

FLAGSTAFF HORSE LAKE TRAIL WORK EVENT

Submitted by Dale Shewalter

Photos by Brian Poturalski, Coconino National Forest

The Flagstaff event was a large and well-organized trail work event held south of town where tread work construction was done on the Horse Lake segment of the Arizona Trail, in the Mormon Lake Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. Approximately 1-1/2 miles of trail were built, including new single track and road-to-trail conversion. In addition, more than 200 feet of log fencing was installed around the trailhead located off the Ashurst Lake access road.

Many of the trail work volunteers were affiliated with organizations that have been committed to helping build the Arizona Trail, including Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona,

American Express, Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts of America, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Coconino Rural Environmental Corps, YMCA Earth Service Corps, Arizona Public Service Company, Coconino County Juvenile Court Center, Arizona Department of Health Services, American Trails, US Forest Service (USFS), and the Arizona Trail Association.



Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona fielded 68 trail builders on their fourth official Arizona Trail work trip. This is a well-organized and energetic group of volunteers who work statewide on outdoor projects needing volunteer assistance. ATA member, Dr. Michael Baker, is the director of Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona. The Horse Lake Segment was not without horses, or mules. USFS volunteer Tom McConnel and ATA Segment Steward Janet Walsh, both of Flagstaff, led their pack

Continued on page 4

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

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by Jan Hancock



Every time I look at a map of the Arizona Trail stretching out across our state, border-to-border, I am reminded of the people that volunteer their hours and their talents that we don't see...the work that they do is obvious, but we don't see them.

These are our "invisible champions" who organize events, plan for the tools and equipment needed, and coordinate their maintenance activities with their land managers. These hardy volunteers repair trail signs that have fallen down, fix water bars, trim tree limbs for equestrians, remove rocks and cholla pieces from the trail tread, rebuild knocked-down rock cairns, and collect the litter left by the less-inspired lovers of nature at our trailheads.

The magnitude of our state's level of volunteerism and the huge support for the Arizona Trail became so evident at National Trails Day events this year. People of all ages,

cultures, careers, and trail experience levels worked shoulder-to-shoulder on sections of the Arizona Trail, building a legacy for future generations who will want to experience the "real Arizona" as it is now, as we are all preserving for them...now.

Great pride wells up in me as I look at that magical line on a map...a trail touching the lives of so many now, and so many more to come. It is this vision that prompted AZT founder and educator, Dale Shewalter, to move ahead on his dream of preserving this magnificent trail route linking all of nature's diverse experiences offered by the Trail's dramatic landscapes, wildlife, vegetation communities, geology, and...a vertical pathway through our state's history. No other long distance trail in America takes its visitors to sunrises at the Grand Canyon, sunsets on the Vermillion Cliffs, or the unique flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert.

To all of you "invisible heroes" who do so much to help build, maintain, and preserve this state treasure, I tip my hat in both respect and awe. Without you, this trail could never be.

Randy Warner Elected to ATA Board of Directors

An avid hiker and active ATA fund raiser, Randy Warner, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association at the board's quarterly meeting held in Flagstaff on July 14, 2001.

Randy is an Arizona native, a graduate of the University of Arizona, and a lawyer practicing commercial litigation and appeals at the law firm, Jones, Skelton and Hochuli, in Phoenix. Randy lists "hiking, camping and exploring Arizona" as his passions, which lured him to one of the Association's annual meetings several years ago. "That's all it took," Randy said. He walked up to several board members after that meeting and said, "Tell me how I can help...I want to get involved."

Randy is a member of the Association's Finance Committee and has been instrumental in securing funding for the organization from a number of corporate supporters throughout Arizona. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to the completion of the Arizona Trail and has provided leadership in pursuing



grants and sponsorships for the Association.

Randy is also a writer and his article "Down the Grand Canyon with a Baby on your Back" appears in the July 2001, issue of *Raising Arizona Kids* magazine. Randy currently sits on the Editorial Board of "Arizona Attorney" magazine and the boards of the University of Arizona Law College Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. He has written a yet-to-be published book, "Car Camping in Arizona."

Randy's wife, Tracy Leonard-Warner, is a music therapist at Good Samaritan Hospital. Their 22-month-old son, Adin, is already an experienced Arizona Trail worker...he picked up rocks and

moved them throughout the day at the recent National Trails Day trail construction event near Flagstaff.

Please help us welcome Randy to our organization's board, and introduce yourself to him and his family the next time you see them at a trail event.

MOHAVE COUNTY'S ATA SUPPORTERS HOLD TRAILS DAY EVENTS

Dolan Springs resident and an avid Arizona Trail supporter and member of the ATA, Sue Baughman, was the chairperson for the Arizona State Committee on Trails National Trails Day subcommittee for 2001. Her statewide committee was instrumental in raising many of the resources for our Trails Day events held on the Arizona Trail this year. Kingman area trails enthusiasts and the Mohave County Trails Association all jumped into National Trails Day in a big way this year, holding a variety of seven trails-related events in their area of northwestern Arizona. Their community conducted a "Leave No Trace" presentation and also dedicated a new trail and sponsored multiple trail maintenance events. Although these events were not on the Arizona Trail this year, many of these Mohave County residents have helped on trail work events in northern segments of the Arizona Trail in past seasons, and we wish to recognize their support for the ATA and the Arizona Trail in this year's National Trails Day celebration.

MANY OTHER EVENTS ALONG THE TRAIL

Other groups and individuals were celebrating National Trails Day at many different locations along the Arizona Trail route, including a group outing near Kentucky Camp in southern Arizona conducted by the Green Valley Hiking Club, a hike and ride sponsored by the Gila County Trails Association near Payson, and horseback riding on the AZT near Pine, hosted by the OK Corral, a horseback riding and outfitting company that is a big supporter of the Arizona Trail. All in all, National Trails Day was a huge success in Arizona, especially on the Arizona Trail!



photo by Brian Poturalski, Coconino National Forest

SUPPER ANYONE?

ATA Segment Stewards Dick and Janet Walsh, their family members, ATA members, and trail volunteers teamed up to complete an ultra-marathon of food prepared during the Northern Arizona National Trails Day event. Dick and Janet set up the camp kitchen on Friday, June 1, and prepared meals for early arrivals that evening. They continued to provide delicious meals through Sunday, including pancakes and hot oatmeal for breakfast and a fantastic barbecue beef dinner with plenty to go with it for the Saturday evening meal, serving more than 150 people. Great food provided by great folks!



To see more full-color photographs of the people and activities at Trails Day events around the state, visit the Arizona Trail Association website at: www.aztrail.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GREAT SPONSORS!

A statewide celebration involving thousands of people at more than 50 locations takes a lot of financial and in-kind services support. The 2001 National Trails Day celebration in Arizona was no exception. Following is a list of sponsors and supporting agencies who helped provide resources for Arizona Trail events: American Hiking Society; American Express; Arizona Public Service Company; Arizona State Parks; National Park Service RTCA Program; Bashas' Markets; Sunkist Oranges; Arizona State Committee on Trails; Pima Trails Association; Mohave Trails Association; Boyce Thompson Arboretum; Mountain Bike Association of Arizona; Arizona Department of Health Services; Arizona Lottery; Arizona's Promoting Lifetime Activity for Youth Program; Valley Metro; Maricopa Association of Governments; Pinetop-Lakeside Parks & Recreation Dept; City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Dept.; Coconino National Forest; Arizona Public Lands Information Center; Phoenix Zoo; Pima County Parks &

Recreation Dept.; Coconino County Parks & Recreation Dept.; Coronado National Memorial; Summit Hut; Desert Botanical Garden; Arizona Governor's Council on Health, Physical Fitness and Sports; Scottsdale Healthcare; Bureau of Land Management; Kingman Regional Hospital; US Forest Service; Walsh Bros. Office Environments; Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona; Coconino Cycling Club; Swire Coca Cola; Bob Sellars Toyota; Planet Subaru; Briar Patch Inn; Cheap Clothes; AZRA; Babbitt Ranches; Flagstaff Hay & Grain; The Mouse That Roars; SWCA Environmental Consultants; Weatherford Hotel/Flagstaff; United Metro Materials; Perpetual Marketing; and Guardian Medical Transport. There were many, many more sponsors and Trails Day partners who assisted with trails events in scores of communities throughout the state. To each of you, a warm handshake of thanks for being our "support heroes" this year...we could not have succeeded without you!

Suzanne Pfister Elected Board Secretary

Suzanne Pfister was elected to serve as a member of the ATABoard of Directors in 2001, and she has quickly become a leader in the Finance Committee, as well as writing grants proposals and conducting many of the community outreach, trail promotion and marketing activities for our organization. At the July 14, 2001, Board of Directors meeting held in Flagstaff, the chairman of the ATA nominating committee, Bob Bohannon, nominated Suzanne to the office of Secretary of the Association and she was subsequently elected to the position by Board vote.

Suzanne is a member of the Arizona State Parks Board, chairman of the Arizona Humanities Council board, and she serves on several other significant statewide and community boards. Her level of civic involvement is testimony to the familiar saying, "if you want to get something done, go to someone who is already busy." The ATA would like to welcome Suzanne to her position as an officer on our Board of Directors and extends appreciation to Suzanne for accepting the additional volunteer hours this position adds to her ATA and other community activities.

National Trails Day, 2001 Reflections

by Arizona Trail founder, Dale Shewalter

The big trail work event held in Northern Arizona on Saturday, June 2, was particularly meaningful to me. After one "division" of 40-50 volunteers walked to their special trail work site area, we had a brief orientation to the tasks about to be started.

I had the opportunity to talk with this group about the beginnings of the Arizona Trail. Looking at them I recognized familiar Flagstaff faces I had not seen for many years. I saw friends who had given encouragement for the Arizona Trail 16 years ago.

A little more gray, these folks were no less enthusiastic about the Trail. With us also were Dawson Henderson and John and Lisa Nelson...all instrumental in the early development of the Trail. In the early 1980's, John and Lisa were on moonlit Coronado Peak the night

that the Arizona Trail vision became clear. Thank you all, good friends, for supporting the Arizona Trail.

One of the National Trails Day event leaders, Brian Poturalski of the US Forest Service, shared this observation during our work event on the Arizona Trail. He noted several Girl Scouts working on the Trail. He overheard one girl say, "Wow! Look at our new trail we built!" Shortly after that, two botanists from the Desert Botanical Garden walked by the Girl Scouts. When asked if they had come to work on the Trail, the botanists said they were just walking and looking at the plants. One of the Girl Scouts said excitedly, "So you're the first hikers on our new trail!"

Again, thank you friends. I hope to see you on the Trail!



Trail Steward, Board Member and Webmaster Dawson Henderson took this photo from the Kachina trail showing the area of the fire last spring. The grass has reestablished in this meadow, but you can see the charred trees in the middle ground.

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Arizona Trail Update

by Dean Prichard, founding member of The Arizona Trail Association and Oracle Passage Steward

The Arizona Trail from the American Flag Trailhead on the Old Mt. Lemmon Road up to Oracle Ridge and down Bonito Canyon is very heavily used by hikers, equestrians and bikers. Many make High Jinks Ranch, a National Historic Site, a tour stop. Other picnic at Campo Bonito.

The only licensed outfitter on the Coronado National Forest, Randy Knox, operating a dude string out of the C.O.D. Ranch, now makes Buffalo Bill's High Jinks Ranch a tour destination for hundreds of out-of-state horseback riders on the Arizona Trail. Visitors are always welcome at the ranch.

The YMCA's Triangle Y Ranch Camp also utilizes High Jinks Ranch as an overnight Arizona Trail campout destination, sometimes having as many as 20 horses there.

The Cody Trail segment of the Arizona Trail needs maintenance, and the American Flag Trailhead posts have rotted at the ground level and have fallen down, including the crossbar designating the trail dedication, May 20, 1989. Both the Arizona Trail Association and Oracle Historical Society have plans to

upgrade the trail and site. The old adobe post office and corrals at the American Flag Trailhead are owned by the Oracle Historical Society.

High Jinks, the American Flag site, and the Kannally House at Oracle State Park's Center for Environmental Education are all three on the National Registry of Historic Place and are linked by the Arizona Trail.

The American Flag Trailhead was one of the first trailheads established on the Arizona Trail and has been one of the most popular in the state. Plans are to expand camping and horse trailer facilities at the site.

The Arizona Trail is an 800-mile nationally acclaimed trail from the Mexican border to Utah. The Oracle Passage comes out of the Santa Catalina Mountains at High Jinks, passes through the American Flag and Oracle State Park and heads north adjacent to old Tiger Mine Road. The Sonoran Desert Passage from Oracle to the Gila River is still under construction.

FIELD REPORTS

Kaibab Plateau North

report from Mike Carr, North Kaibab Segment Steward

The Arizona Trail segments that lead north of Route 89A near Jacob Lake to the Utah borderline are complete and, in some sections, outstanding. In April trail maintenance work was completed on the section from Winter Road to the border, and in May maintenance was conducted on the section south of Winter Road to the trailhead near Jacob Lake. We worked on the trail in both sections, going both ways. These work trips in April and May were great times, on we only saw two people on the Arizona Trail in both trips. The hikers spotted my parked truck and were glad to get some water (they left me a cute note).

There is very little water (very little) on the Arizona Trail in these sections. People using these areas of the trail need to plan ahead and stash plenty of water or carry a lot of water with them. We will be scouting the trail sections south of Jacob Lake in the months ahead when time permits.

Pinal County

report from Anna Pfender

March 31-April 1

On March 31st & April 1st, Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (MBAA) segment steward Anna Pfender gathered a total of 21 volunteers to construct more than 1 mile of the Tucson Wash segment of the Arizona Trail near Oracle, Arizona. This segment is south of the MBAA segment and the reason we worked in this area was that 2.5 miles of this segment must be completed by September 1st in order for the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) to obtain renewal of a grant which will provide approximately \$9000 in funding for the purchase of gates and signage for that segment of the trail. MBAA agreed to postpone continuing construction of their segment so that they could help ATA achieve this immediate goal.

The trail work on the 31st consisted of construction of a nice stretch of trail on the north side of Tucson Wash on top of a ridge, which offered spectacular views of Mt. Lemmon to the south, and the Tortilla Mountains to the north. A lot of cacti were encountered, including prickly pear, cholla, pincushion and hedgehog. The crew of 13 did a fine job and completed the goal for that day. On the following day, 10 folks made their way out of the wash on the south side and up a hill that called for construction of a climbing turn and a lot of benching as the trail snaked its way upward.

All of the volunteers should be commended for their hard work and fortitude. ATA volunteers included Jim Martin, John Neeling, Chuck Horner, Jerry Nash, and Catherine Schuyler. MBAA volunteers included Anna Pfender, Chuck King, Agnes and Serge Drogi, Richard and Megan Austin, Louis and Phillip Juarros, James Sancinelo, Joe Capuano, Michelle Fairfield, Keith Fritz, Kathy and Chris Boltz, Pet Fioravanti, and Steven Schaefer. Many, many thanks to all of the terrific volunteers who did excellent work! Future trail users will no doubt find this segment to be well built, while offering a great deal of challenge as well as exceptional views.

April 28-29

On April 28th and 29th, MBAA segment steward Anna Pfender and Round Trip Bike Shop segment steward Kent Taylor gathered a total of 28 volunteers to construct more than 1 mile of the Tucson Wash segment of the Arizona Trail near Oracle, Arizona.

The trail work consisted of construction of a beautiful stretch of trail on the south side of Tucson Wash on top of a ridge, which offered spectacular views of Mt. Lemmon and the surrounding area.

We worked our way down to another wash, back out of the wash, and most of the way up the hill on the other side. We transplanted many prickly pear and tackled cholla cacti as well as a whole lot of rocky terrain. Our excellent crews made quick work of it and our accomplishments that weekend were far greater than any of us had imagined. Those of us who stayed over Saturday night were treated to the sight of a gila monster late that afternoon that was also out enjoying the Arizona Trail. Many of us had never seen a gila monster in the wild, so that was a real treat! Personally I also saw a rattlesnake shortly after that, but experienced it at a safe distance.

ATA volunteers included Jim Martin, Chuck Horner, Merle Parmer, John Sova, Helen Hill, Catherine Schuyler, Bob Parsons, and Roger and Hannah Kesterson. MBAA volunteer included Anna Pfender, Terri, Leonard, Sean and Ryan Zupko, Adam Gurtler, Adrian Chavez, Scott and B.J. Francoeur, Ryan Albrecht, Kim Hedden, Warren Swope, Lori Smith, Noel Garcia, Kathy Josepow, Eric and Ian Wilkey, and Kent and Jarrod Taylor. Thanks to their efforts, ATA now only has about 1/3 of a mile left to construct on this segment.

Another work event was attempted on May 19th, however we were rained out and forced to cancel that day's work. We may try to reschedule this work event, so don't be surprised if you hear from me again real soon. Hope to see you all on the Arizona Trail!

Tonto National Forest

report from Ted Stratton and John Peel

Arrowhead Wildlife Society is the Segment Steward of the spectacular northernmost section of the Hardscrabble Mesa Passage of the Arizona Trail. We rescheduled our work event due to the all day rain last November 5th. On a beautiful day, May 5, 2001, eleven volunteers met at the Pine Trailhead for a scheduled four-hour work event. It was a 45-minute hike, with tools, to the selected section of the trail that descends into Oak Springs. We are happy to report that our experienced volunteers completed ten new rock waterbars on the switchbacks, cleared significant brush and repaired two existing waterbars.

Members and volunteers will work individually or in small groups during the summer and fall, clearing brush, installing signs, and building and repairing rock cairns.



A hearty thanks to the tough individuals in the photo, left to right: Jodi Lorenz, Ted Stratton, Larry Forsythe, Cathy Schuyler, Earl Edris, Nancy Malmberg, John Peel, Beverly Malmberg, Jim Heskett, Rob Melnick, Rick Heffernon

Arizona Trail Calendar of Events

August

August 23-26: Blue Ridge. Segment Steward Larry Snead will lead a four-day work event on the Blue Ridge Ranger District, Coconino National Forest. We will camp at the Blue Ridge Campground group site and do trail maintenance south toward Rock Crossing Campground. Everyone is invited to come one or all four days but must call Larry to reserve space at 602-279-0443. Come and have some fun working on the Arizona Trail and sample some of Larry's "world famous" dutch oven beer biscuits.

September

Trails Training Workshop - Final Date to Be Determined (on a weekend) All volunteers are invited to attend an informative ATA Trails Training Workshop (all day Saturday, 1/2 day Sunday) to earn a Trail Construction and Maintenance Certificate. Learn how to plan, layout, build, and maintain a good trail! Workshop will be held in the cool pines of Flagstaff, with both classroom instruction and field training. Workshop instruction and a notebook of printed training materials are provided at no charge. Workshop includes a delicious Saturday evening campfire meal and Sunday morning breakfast. Please contact John Neeling, Director of Trail Operations, immediately if you would like more information. 520-743-4487 in Tucson, or E-mail: jneeling@qwest.net

October

October 13 & 14 Highline Trail near Payson. Replace unsustainable trail with sustainable trail at some more of the heavily eroded trail sections near Geronimo Trailhead. This is a rescheduling of the event that was cancelled last November because of snow and rain. Work Saturday and half day on Sunday or Saturday only. Dinner Saturday night and Sunday breakfast provided. ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Call or e-mail Michael Baker (602.522.9127; michaelb@dgcenter.org). Additional details and on-line registration will be available on July 1 at www.dgcenter.org/voa.

October 19 - November 13 Four Peaks Trail Reconstruction. PACK ANIMAL support needed for a series of remote trailwork events. We will be asking volunteers to hike over five miles to work area. No local water supply. Heritage grant budget will fund only a portion of the pack animal support needed. If you may be able to help, please contact Michael Baker (602.522.9127; michaelb@dgcenter.org). This project is supported by a grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund

October 19-22 Four Peaks Trail Reconstruction. This is the first of a series of multi-day events organized by Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona (VOA), Tonto Basin RD, and the ATA to reestablish the trail at Buckhorn Mountain in the Four Peaks Wilderness (elevation

circa 5,000 feet). This spectacular location is remote—four plus mile hike from Lone Pine Saddle Trailhead (on good trail with modest elevation changes). Some new tread, some rehabilitation and switchback construction to wilderness trail specs. VOA will establish a base camp and volunteers may come in for whatever combination of days suits them. Given the hiking time, a three day trip at minimum is best. Tools, water, and food will be packed in. Volunteers need to bring one day's worth of water, their first meal and trail snacks, and camping gear. Because of wilderness restrictions and limited camping space, participation will be restricted. Need camp managers, pack animal support, and entertainers. ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Call or e-mail Michael Baker (602.522.9127; michaelb@dgcenter.org). Additional details and on-line registration will be available on July 1 at www.dgcenter.org/voa. This project is supported by a grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund

October 28 - November 3 - AHS Volunteer vacation. Need pack animal support for supplies. Call or e-mail Michael Baker (602.522.9127; michaelb@dgcenter.org). This project is supported by a grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund.

MBAA Trail Work Event - October 27-28 (two days) Contact Anna Pfender at: mtbbabe@home.com or telephone 602-480-893-6610 for trail work locations, times, and details.

November

November 3 (Saturday) Picket Post trailhead. Meet at 9:00 a.m. From Phoenix, take U.S. 60 east toward Superior. Turn right (south) between mile marker 221 and 222 (look for an old windmill) back off the road. Go 1/2 mile south to the trailhead. Bring day packs with snacks, water, gloves and hats. Sunblock is recommended. ATA will provide tools and power bars. The work is trail maintenance about 2 miles from the trailhead, so there is an hour hike involved. This is an all day event but there is good camping at the trailhead if you choose to stay. Call Tom Coulson at 480-832-7267 or 480-303-4975 or e-mail him at: tomctopcat@aol.com

November 8-13 Four Peaks Trail Reconstruction. See description for October 19-22. Take advantage of the holiday weekend to take a great hike and get some good trail built. The full moon is November 4, we maybe able to guide an evening hike in on Friday, November 9. ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Call or e-mail Michael Baker (602.522.9127; michaelb@dgcenter.org). Additional details and on-line registration will be available on July 1 at www.dgcenter.org/voa. This project is supported by a grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund.

MBAA Trail Work Event - November 17th (one day only) Contact Anna Pfender at: mtbbabe@home.com or telephone 602-480-893-6610 for trail work locations, times, and details.

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 (waterbars, drainage dips), switchbacks, removing stumps/roots, etc. Difficulty of work is easy to moderate, distance to worksite 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: 602-952-1447, e-mail: ata@aztrail.org.

for the most up-to-date news, visit us on the world wide web at:
<http://www.aztrail.org>



Blue Ridge Passage

Forest Road 300 to Highway 87



General Information

This passage links the Highline Passage at General Springs on top of the Mogollon Rim to State Highway 87. A continuation of this passage will soon be in place, and will connect the southern Blue Ridge Passage to the Mormon Lake Passage (tentative name) at Forest Highway 3 (Lake Mary Road). Signing consists of the Arizona Trail logo branded on wooden signs or decals mounted on trail markers.

Location:

(Southern section) North of Pine and Strawberry, east of State Highway 87, beginning at FR 300 and General Springs. (Northern section) North of Clint's Well on State Highway 87, at mile marker 299.

Length: (Approx.) 15.3 miles **Difficulty Rating:** Moderate to Difficult

Recommended Seasons of Use: Spring, Summer, Fall (Generally the first of April to the end of November)

Access: This passage of the Arizona Trail offers trail enthusiasts several access options. In addition to the starting and ending points at the Battle of the Big Dry Wash marker and State Highway 87, the trail is accessible to most passenger vehicles at Blue Ridge and Rock Crossing Forest Service campgrounds. These campgrounds and road access may be closed in winter. Check with Blue Ridge Ranger District for current status. The best vehicular access to the southern end of this segment is as follows: Travel north on State Highway 87 from Pine and Strawberry to mile marker 289.3. Turn right on Forest Road 141 and travel 8 miles to Forest Road 141H. Turn left on FR 141H and travel 12 miles to Forest Road 123. Turn right on FR123 and travel one tenth of a mile to Forest Road 300. Turn left on FR300 and travel eight tenths of a mile to the Battle of Big Dry Wash monument, where the Arizona Trail crosses FR 300. The northern access is easily reached where Forest Road 138 turns south off of State Highway 87 at mile marker 299.

Trail Route Description:

Beginning at Forest Road 300, this passage begins at a large stone and brass monument describing the history of the Battle of Big Dry Wash, an Indian and US Calvary battle fought near here in the late 1800's. The Arizona Trail follows the short 1/4-mile road leading north by this monument to General Springs and an historic Forest Service restored cabin and trailhead. Seasonal water may be available at General Springs. The road ends at the Forest Service cabin and the Arizona Trail becomes a single-track trail and follows the General Springs Wash (which may have seasonal water, as well). After following the General Springs Wash for several miles, there is a junction in the trail. The Cabin Loop trail (Fred Haught Trail) goes to the right, and the Arizona Trail goes to the left.

The Arizona Trail then climbs up on Battleground Ridge, going through a gate, crossing a two-track logging road, dropping into a ravine where the large water pipe (aqueduct) which carries water from Blue Ridge Reservoir to the East Verde River is quite visible. As the Trail leaves this ravine it enters an area of a previous forest fire burn and crosses Forest Road 123, near a cattle tank.

For the next several miles the Arizona Trail parallels Forest Road 123 on its west side and the Trail intersects Forest Road 123A. Turn left, following FR 123A for approximately 1-1/2 miles. There the Trail goes through a gated fence and descends into East Clear Creek upstream (west of) Blue Ridge Reservoir. The descent in and out of East Clear Creek has some steep sections and numerous switchbacks. Note: When Blue Ridge Reservoir is full, by turning right in the East Clear Creek drainage area, the water can be reached within 1/4 mile. When the Reservoir is low, water may be several miles away. After the climb out of East Clear Creek the Trail follows East Clear Creek Rim to USFS Rock Crossing Campground (horses and packstock not permitted in campgrounds). An equestrian bypass around the campground is available. Water is available in the campground.

The Trail continues north over Blue Ridge, crossing several fence lines with gates, passes by Little Moqui Spring, and descends to and crosses Forest Road 138 near USFS Blue Ridge Campground, which has water available. The Trail continues northward by Elk Tank and ends this passage at State Highway 87, crossing the highway at a gated cattle guard.

NOTES: Trail access points noted can be closed to vehicular traffic because of deep snow in winter months. Water sources in this passage are not dependable but water can often be found in stock tanks in the vicinity of the Trail. An interesting side trail leads off of Forest Road 123E to a monument that was erected in the battle location which lists the names of the Indian warriors and US Calvary members who fought in the Battle of the Big Dry Wash. A short distance (200 yards south) from the monument is a grave and a white gravestone where a US Calvary soldier is buried.

Resources

Maps: Coconino National Forest map. Coconino National Forest visitors Guide, Coconino National Forest Recreational Opportunity Guide, U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangles: Kehl Ridge, Dane Canyon and Blue Ridge Reservoir.

For more information, contact:

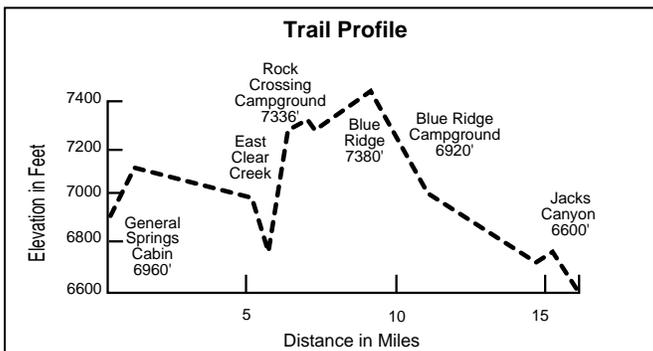
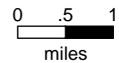
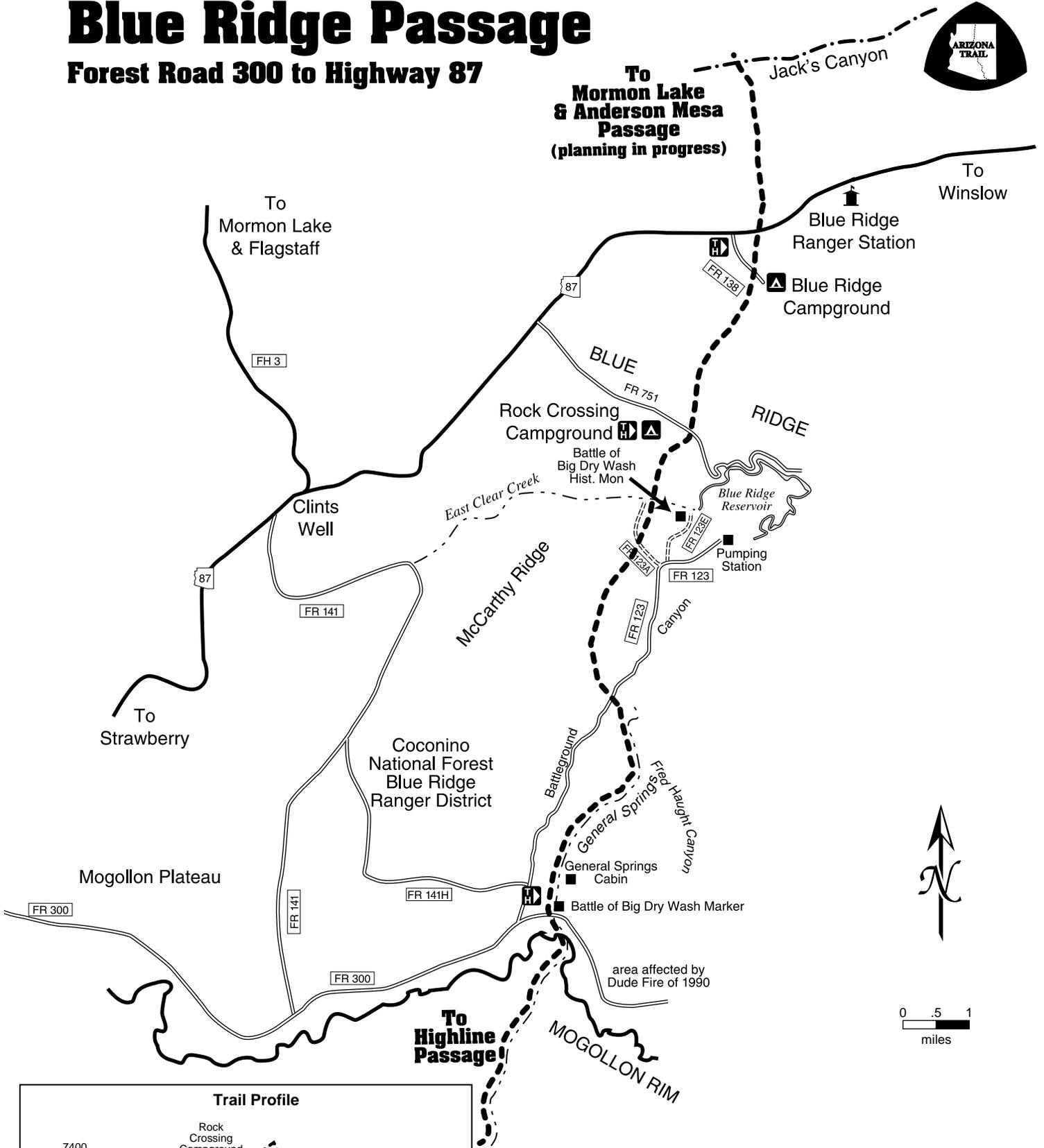
Blue Ridge Ranger District, Coconino National Forest, H.C.31, Box 300, Happy Jack, AZ 86024. 928-527-3670 or the Happy



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

Blue Ridge Passage

Forest Road 300 to Highway 87



	The Arizona Trail		Trail (TR)
	AZ Trail Route		Forest Road
	4-W Drive Road		Trailhead
	Dirt Road		Mountain
	All-Weather Road		Recreation Site
	Paved Road		



Arizona Trail Merchandise



T-SHIRTS
Beautiful full color design on ash shirt.



AZT PATCH



TRAIL MUGS

Items not to scale



AZ Trail BALLCAP

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # day _____ evening _____

	Number	x Price	Total
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	_____	x \$15.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Med <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Large			
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	_____	x \$18.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Med <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Large <input type="checkbox"/> XX Large			
Patches	_____	x \$3.00	_____
Original Ball Caps	_____	x \$8.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Teal <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Olive <input type="checkbox"/> Blue			
Embroidered Ball Caps	_____	x \$22.95	_____
<i>New Style!</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Sage Green <input type="checkbox"/> Gray			
Trail Mug	_____	x \$4.00	_____
BOOKS/MAPS:			
ATA Passage Maps packet	_____	x \$7.00	_____
ATA Essential Guide for Long-Distance Travel	_____	\$3.00	_____
<i>"On the Arizona Trail: A Guide for Hikers, Cyclists, and Equestrians"</i> by Kelly Tighe and Susan Moran, Pruett Publishers <input type="checkbox"/> x 19.95 _____			
<i>"Along the Arizona Trail"</i> by M. John Fayhee, photography by Jerry Sieve, Westcliffe Publishers <input type="checkbox"/> x 39.95 _____			

Please add shipping and handling:
up to 1 lb. - \$2.50, 1-3 lbs. - \$5.00, 3-5 lbs. - \$7.50

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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)

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?
(check all that apply)

- 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 \$25/year
- Student Senior \$15/year
- Organizations with budgets *less* than \$25,000 \$50/year
- Organizations with budgets *greater* than \$25,000 \$100/year
- Trailblazer Member \$100/year
- Trail Patron \$500
- Lifetime Member \$1000
- 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.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____



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ATA welcomes articles and photos from trail users and volunteers. Please mail to ATA or e-mail: editor@aztrail.org
Arizona Trail Association, P.O. Box 36736, Phoenix, Arizona 85067 602-252-4794, www.aztrail.org Next Deadline: June 30th



Hike coordinator Cindy Donaldson lead 25 hikers to mile marker 102 on the Arizona-Mexico border in the Coronado National Memorial's "Hike in Coronado's Footsteps" event on June 2, 2001.

ORDER YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

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webmaster@aztrail.org.