(2008 - 2010)

Reports from the Field

This page contains older reports on trail work events and other special events. They are in calendar order with the newest at the top. You can click on the links immediately below to jump directly to a particular event, or you can just scroll down the page. Clicking on a photo will bring up a larger version of it.

09/13/10 - Las Cienegas
08/28/10 - San Francisco Peaks
08/14/10 - Monsoon Laka
07/31/10 - San Francisco Peaks
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04/03/10 - Coloseal Cave Mountain Park
03/27/10 - Tortilla Mountains
03/06/10 - Gila River Canyons
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07/20/09 - Santa Rita Mountains
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05/28/09 - Kaibab Plateau
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07/17/08 - Las Colinas
06/28/08 - San Francisco Peaks
06/12/08 - Tortilla Mountains
04/05/08 - Las Colinas
03/15/08 - Tortilla Mountains
02/16/08 - Tortilla Mountains
09/28/07 - ATA Rendezvous/Trail Day

Passage 7 - Las Cienegas
November 13, 2010
TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2007-2010

A group of volunteers came together on Saturday, November 13th to build a bypass trail for equestrians. The main Arizona Trail goes through a long tunnel to get under the I-10 freeway. Horses cannot go through the tunnel so a trail was built that bypasses the tunnel and instead goes under a bridge and re-joins the main trail on the other side of I-10.

Photos by Michelle Caprari.

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Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
August 28-29, 2010

Many thanks to AZ Trail Stewards Chambo and Beverly Chambers, the August event leaders. This was a very successful event. Again there was a large group of enthusiastic volunteers. Old friends and new friends had a productive weekend.

Friday afternoon we had a little rain, and this resulted in good soil conditions for trail building over the weekend. We were fortunate to have perfect weather. Trail builders continued working eastward on Segment 34A and produced a little over one mile of new trail. Everyone was especially appreciative after the frustrations of the June fire cancellation and the July "rain out". Late Saturday afternoon was a fun social time. Campers enjoyed the traditional pot luck feast. A large group also worked on Sunday morning, and when they returned from the trail they enjoyed special treats from the Wildflower Bread Company; thanks to Wildflower and to those NAU students who delivered these contributions.

The "Close the Gap - Finish the AZ Trail" project is a cooperative effort of the Peaks/Mormon Lake Ranger District and the Arizona Trail Association. The trail-building weekends are led by Trail Stewards for the Arizona Trail. The events are supported by ATA volunteers from the Flagstaff area and statewide, as well as volunteers from several other organizations. This month we welcomed back volunteers from the "R2R" Hiking Club; this is the third year they have worked on "Close the Gap". Thanks to Chambo and Beverly for their leadership, and thanks to each and every volunteer and to the team effort which makes these events successful. Special thanks to all those who helped close down the camp site and pack up all the supplies.

Check the Events Calendar for fall and winter work events in other parts of the state. Stay tuned for 2011 events to help "Close the Gap - Finish the AZ Trail".

Thanks to Chuck Williams for these photos.

Gay Hohner
Passage 30 - Mormon Lake
August 14-15, 2010

On the weekend of August 14-15 about a dozen volunteer gate builders gathered at Mormon Lake to help Segment Steward Doug Parch install two new gates on Passage 30 of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. Ladder Cox and grandson Harry came from Tucson to help teach the crew how to properly install gates on the AZT. These gates were the twenty-ninth and thirtieth gates Laddie has helped to install on the Arizona Trail. Sean Murphy and Jim McGeorge from the Peaks RD provided much appreciated logistics help by using the Forest Service ATV and trailer to move heavy posts, wire, pipe, concrete mix and tools to the gate sites.
A big thank you is due all the volunteers who helped complete the project in one weekend.

See the ATA Events Calendar for other opportunities to volunteer in helping to build and maintain the Arizona National Scenic Trail across Arizona.

Gary Hohner

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**Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks**  
**July 31, 2010**

This is the third year Flagstaff Biking and Northern Arizona Trail Runners have been event leaders for the "Close the Gap" project. A nice tradition, this is an example of the team spirit that makes the AZ Trail happen. The "Close the Gap" events are a cooperative effort of the Peaks/Mormon Lake Ranger District and the Arizona Trail Association. Trail stewards for the AZ Trail serve as event leaders. We are glad that the uncooperative weather is not a tradition.

Saturday, July 31, the tools were all laid out, and an enthusiastic group was primed to help build trail. Many campers had arrived on Friday and had traveled a great distance, from as far away as Oklahoma. Friday evening was pleasant. In spite of the threatening weather forecast, we had a large group of volunteers present Saturday morning. The deluge started during registration. Many huddled under the canopy. The snacks quickly disappeared, and FBO's coffee from Late for the Train was welcome. Everyone was hoping that the rain would pass, but the ground soon turned to mud. Water was running everywhere, and it was clear that the event must be cancelled.

There were a lot of disappointed volunteers. Before everyone left NATRA's Neil Weintraub rewarded the volunteers with Soulstice/Flagstaff Urban Trail System raffle prizes. Aaron Seifert announced that volunteers could go to the volunteer center for the Schultz burned area.

Thanks to each and every volunteer who came to this event, and thanks to Aaron Seifert and Anthony Quintile of FBO and Neil Weintraub of NATRA for their planning and publicity work.

Thanks to Chuck Williams for the photos below. Neil Weintraub's rainy-day photos are available here.

Gay Hohner
Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
June 5, 2010

Flagstaff’s National Trails Day on the Arizona Trail is one more example why the AZ Trail is 96% complete. Dale Shewalter has left a legacy of cooperative grass roots efforts to build and maintain the AZ Trail. Led by Sean Murphy of the Coconino National Forest, many organizations and agencies supported the June 5 event. Some of these were American Conservation Experience (ACE), Arizona Highways magazine, Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, Arizona Trail Association (ATA), Coconino County Parks & Recreation, Coconino Horsemen’s Alliance, Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC), Coconino Trail Riders, and Flagstaff Biking Organization (FBO).

Flagstaff’s National Trails Day was dedicated to the memory of the late Dale Shewalter. Inspiring tributes were given by Zane Shewalter and David Boone. About 200 volunteers from the community and state-wide built over one mile of trail to help “Close the Gap” in the San Francisco Peaks passage.

Since 1993 National Trails Day has been promoted and publicized by American Hiking Society. National Trails Day has its roots in a report of President Reagan’s 1987 Commission on American Outdoors. The recommendation became known as Trails for All Americans.

Thanks to Chuck Williams for all of these photos.

Gay Hohner

Flagstaff’s National Trails Day was dedicated to the memory of Dale Shewalter.
Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
May 22-23, 2010

The "Close the Gap" events are a team effort of the Coconino National Forest, the Arizona Trail Association, many organizations, and enthusiastic volunteers. Flagstaff area trail stewards serve as event leaders. The May event leaders were ATA trail stewards Andrea and David Michaels and Gay and Gary Hohner. This was another very productive event; a large number of volunteers turned up for Sunday am also. Saturday evening pot luck was a yummy and welcome break from all the hard work; thanks to Andrea and David Michaels for delicious minestrone. Check out the ATA Event Calendar for opportunities to participate in maintenance, trail building and other ATA activities.

Thanks to the photographers for these photos:  Chuck Williams, Tom Kimmel and Case Coniglio.

Gay Hohner
Passage 22 - Saddle Mountain
April 17-18, 2010

On Saturday and Sunday April 17 and 18, 13 volunteers hiked in 3 miles and were able to clear brush through about one mile of trail in the most remote section of Passage 22. We also were able improve about one mile of trail through a rock strewn two track section of the segment north of the Mormon Grove TH. Six new volunteers representing the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (MBAA) showed up to show their support for the trail. With the help of veteran volunteers to assist with the instruction and encouragement of the newcomers, a lot of work was accomplished. The entire 16 miles of this passage has now been cleared of brush at least once in the last year and is now more than passable. I would like to personally thank all those who assisted in helping to clear the trail through this segment during the past year. I, obviously, could not have done it without you. It is because of people like you the Arizona Trail is able to succeed. Thank you.

Patrick OConnell
Colossal Cave Mountain Park - REI Day
April 3, 2010

Over 130 volunteers contributed to a "colossal" trail work day east of Tucson on REI Arizona Trail Day, April 3, 2010. Work ranged from informational signage and gate installation to trail maintenance and clean up at many locations from Saguaro National Park East to a section of the Arizona Trail just north of I-10.

Terri Gay

Scott Regan hammers and Mike Powell steadies a support for an information kiosk installation.

Trail work involves more than grubbing trail! Bob and Jan Fusinati and Martha Lemen celebrate their newly planted mesquite at Colossal Cave Mountain Park.

Laddie Cox and volunteer crew pose in front of the result of their day’s work on April 3 at Three Bridges Trailhead near Tucson.

AZ Trail REI Day group.

Passage 15 - Tortilla Mountains - National Trails Day
March 27, 2010

On Saturday March 27th, Pinal County and the Arizona Trail Association hosted almost 70 volunteers for a morning of trail building and fun. The group began constructing a portion of a re-route which takes existing trail off of a two track and will build single track to connect with the future trailhead off of the Florence/Kelvin Highway. On this wonderful spring morning our volunteers constructed almost one-half mile of new trail. This event continues the
TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2007-2010

wonderful partnership the ATA has with Pinal County and introduced the Arizona Trail and the fun of trail work to many first timers. Stay tuned as we plan more events to finish this 1.5 mile re-route.

Kent Taylor

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Passage 16 - Gila River Canyons
March 6-13, 2010

Last week, March 6-13, 2010 trail construction was started on Section ‘A’ of the Gila River Canyons Project. This one week project included 19 volunteers from the Sierra Club and 9 from Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania, plus a few others that showed up for a day or two during the week. In spite of three days of rain and below freezing temperatures almost every night, we managed to complete the goal of constructing new trail on the BLM land, just to the south of the Gila River at the Kelvin Bridge. The construction required a steep, rocky hillside climb which had 12 members tied up for 4 days. This section is labeled as Section ‘A’ of the entire 22+ miles through the Gila River Canyons Passage and is critical to ‘Make the Connection’ in linking up with newly constructed Alamo Canyon (Passage 17) to the north in Tonto National Forest. Once completed, it will also link up to the new (yet to be constructed) 1.7 acre Trailhead at the Florence-Kelvin Hwy to the south. Additionally, Pinal County assisted in installing two large concrete culverts to help us avoid a very deep drainage near the Kelvin Bridge.

Stay tuned as there will soon be another work session planned to complete the remaining mile along with constructing a gate and barriers to keep ATV’s and motorcycles off the trail.

John Rendall

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Passage 22 - Saddle Mountain
November 14-15, 2009

On Saturday and Sunday November 14 and 15, a great group of volunteers showed up at Passage 22 to assist me with my first official work event. I can not tell you how pleased I was with the response. On Saturday we worked on a section of trail that was a two mile hike in from the northern terminus of the segment. We were able to clear about a mile of trail that was severely over grown. I do not know how it would have been cleared without their efforts. John Rendall and a few volunteers also greatly improved the Thicket Springs trail junction. It too was overgrown and new signs were installed to help direct hikers through an area which had previously been confusing. On Sunday we worked on the lower section of the trail clearing brush, building cairns and repairing some tread. John Rendall and his group did some much needed work on the access trail to the Cross F trail head.
TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2007-2010

So, I would again like to say thank you to all those volunteers who came out and helped make my first work event a success. I would also like to say thanks to Gary Hohner for his assistance. Amy and Mark from the Tonto Forest, Mesa Ranger District, showed up on Saturday to help with a safety lecture on tool use. Thank you both.

Patrick O'Connell

Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
August 29-30, 2009

The "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" effort in August moved to Segment 34A; this is between Snowbowl Road and Schultz Pass. Again a large group of volunteers turned out for this very successful and last "Close the Gap" for the 2009 season. In spite of the rocky challenge of this particular part of Segment 34A, the volunteers constructed about .67 miles of new trail over the weekend. The August event leaders Paul Conn and Dorothy Boulton were joined by members of the Flagstaff Hiking Club, many Flagstaff area volunteers, and numerous Arizona Trail Association members and friends from all over the State. Thanks to Paul and Dorothy for their leadership.

The "Close the Gap" events are a cooperative effort of the Coconino National Forest and the Arizona Trail Association. Trail Stewards for the Arizona National Scenic Trail serve as Event Leaders. These events owe their great success to the spirit of teamwork and to many enthusiastic and loyal volunteers. We are grateful to each and every one of our volunteers and for their continued support. Over the last two seasons some volunteers have attended as many as six, seven or eight of the eight "Close the Gap" weekends. It is amazing how much fun you can have getting dirty. When you build, maintain or improve the AZ Trail, you not only help to build a lasting icon for Arizona, but camaraderie, new friends and a sense of accomplishment are fringe benefits.

We look forward to the completion of Segments 34A and 34B; when these two segments are completed, you will be able to go from Schultz Pass to Utah on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This will also mark the completion of all the Arizona National Scenic Trail in the northern part of the State. Stay tuned for events to help "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" in the San Francisco Peaks Passage.

Thanks to Chuck Williams and to Laddie Cox for the photos below.

Gay Hohner

Photo by CW.

Some of the volunteers after work Saturday.

Crew leader with great posture wields a pick mattock.

Four Bar Rock.

Photo by CW.
Passage 5 - Santa Rita Mountains
July 30, 2009

On Thursday, July 30, we did some more great repair work on the Santa Rita Mountains passage near Box Canyon road.

Lee Allen

Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
July 23-26, 2009

Enthusiastic volunteers combined with perfect weather resulted in a very productive weekend; not only was the goal of completing the last mile to reach Kelly Tank met, but also the Sunday volunteers were then free to do
some much needed maintenance on Segment 34D north of Kelly Tank.
The "Close the Gap" events are a cooperative effort of the Coconino National Forest and the Arizona Trail Association and volunteers from many organizations. Trail Stewards for the AZ Trail serve as Event Leaders. The leaders for July's "Close the Gap" were Aaron Seifert of Flagstaff Biking Organization and Neil Weintraub of Northern Arizona Trail Runners; they were joined by a large group of volunteers from the Flagstaff area as well as many other ATA members and friends state-wide, plus several out-of-state guests. Volunteers included several families and at least three mother-daughter teams.
Flagstaff Biking Organization and Northern Arizona Trail Runners organized the morning coffee and lunch and held a fun raffle during lunch. There was a stampede for the pizza when it arrived, and the volunteers very much enjoyed the lunch. Thanks to Fratelli's Pizza for their generous donation. During lunch hour volunteers continued to sign a poster greeting card to say "thanks" to Dale Shevalter, founder of the AZ Trail.
By mid-afternoon Saturday, the trail was complete to Kelly Tank. Campers enjoyed a social time and a pot luck Saturday evening. There was a wonderful volunteer group again on Sunday morning who worked on Segment 34D just north of Kelly Tank. This was another popular and successful "Close the Gap" weekend. Thanks are due to Aaron Seifert of FBO and Neil Weintraub of NATRA for their leadership. Thanks to all our volunteers who make it happen. Thanks to Neil Weintraub and to Terri Gay for these photos.
To see more of Neil's July 25 photos go to his Picasa webpage.
Stay tuned as the trail building effort now moves to the other end of the Gap (Segments 34A and B between Schultz Pass and Aspen Corner).
Passage 5 - Santa Rita Mountains
July 16, 2009

We did some great work repairing some badly eroded trail just off the Box Canyon Road (FR 62) near the Greaterville turnoff. The other great thing about working there is it is higher elevation and therefore cooler, plus it is very close to the road with only a two minute walk to the work site.

Lee Allen

Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
June 27-28, 2009

The "Close the Gap" events continue to draw a wonderful group of volunteers! Enthusiasm reigned the entire weekend. The weather was perfect, it was a beautiful camping site with both trees and meadows, and another
mile of new trail was completed. Once again everyone left with a good sense of accomplishment. Of course camaraderie and laughter on Friday and Saturday evenings were abundant. Someone said the Saturday afternoon put luck looked like a Thanksgiving buffet! Trail builders worked northward from FR 418 area en route to Kelly Tank; this is northwest of the Peaks, and the scenery is changing. As the elevation here drops gradually away from the Peaks there are less pine trees and few aspens. There is a still-evident 1996 fire burn area with many old logs.

The "Close the Gap" events are a joint effort of the Coconino National Forest, the Arizona Trail Association, Flagstaff area trail stewards, and many volunteers. The June event leaders were Gary and Gay Hohner and David and Andrea Michaels. The leaders are grateful for the assistance of so many people who make these events happen! Also special thanks to all those volunteers who helped on Sunday to close down the camp site and pack up all the event supplies, tools, etc.

Thanks to Chuck Williams for all of these photos.

Gay Hohner

Hi Ho' march to the trail.

Father & son work crew.

Moving old logs in a burn area.

Volunteers cut new trail along the flag line mid-day Saturday.

Shape, finish & pack the new trail.

The Peaks from near the trail building work.

Lunch break Saturday.

After work Saturday - some of the volunteers.

Sunday morning crews at quitting time - still smiling.

Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks
May 29-30, 2009

The "Close the Gap" crews worked to build new AZ Trail just south of Forest Road 418. In spite of challenging weather that greatly interrupted our Saturday work, determined and dedicated volunteers made the best of it. Good weather on Sunday morning and enthusiastic volunteers further extended the new trail, so the weekend event produced approximately 0.6 miles of new trail. We are
grateful to each and every volunteer. Thanks to AZT trail stewards Chambo and Beverly Chambers for all their excellent planning work and leadership that made this first 2009 event happen. All were relieved to learn that Sheriff Joe was not the caterer after all, and Fort Valley Subway again did a great job for us. Beverly’s chili was especially appreciated and enjoyed around the campfire that cold and wet Saturday evening. Flagstaff area trail stewards for the Arizona Trail have joined forces to lead the 2009 “Close the Gap” events. This was the first of four events in this 2009 cooperative effort of the Coconino National Forest and the Arizona Trail Association, Flagstaff Biking Organization, Northern Arizona Trail Runners, Flagstaff Hiking Club, and many other state-wide volunteers. Join the team effort to help “Close the Gap”; check out the Events Calendar to make your reservation.

Thanks to Chuck Williams for all of these photos.

Gay Hohner

Happy trail crew - May 31.

Storm warning. How long will we be able to work?

Trail snakes through the aspens - no rain yet.

Forest Service crew - rock work.

Volunteers of all ages.

Early Saturday - volunteers cut new trail.

A few of the Sunday, May 31 volunteers.
Thanks to Orme School students and teachers for helping clear miles of tread on passage 42. We received a special visitor at our campsite at the Orderville Trailhead - Condor #A7 came by to visit during dinner on Thursday night and again at breakfast on Friday morning! (Thank you Noelle Roberts for the photos.)

Mike Carr

Passage 7 - Las Cienegas
May 14, 2009

Summit Hut had 10 volunteers that worked with us on Thursday May 14th. We had a productive trail building event in a tough section of trail on a very hot day. We certainly appreciate their efforts. There were the usual sodas and baked goods at the end of the session.

Lee Allen

Summit Hut volunteers were very young and energetic:

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
April 2, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button:  

Passage 7 - Las Cienegas
March 19, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button:  

Passage 7 - Las Cienegas
February 26, 2009

Working with the Ranch Manager with Pima County who owns the land on the south side of I-10, where the Arizona Trail goes under Interstate 10, a 12 foot bow gate was installed. Pima County provided a machine for digging the holes; plus, a man to run it. The Ranch Manager instructed everyone in the construction of the gate, ending with another very impressive project.

Lee Allen

The easier way to dig holes.

The Laddie Cox quick course on log lifting:

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
February 12, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button: 📢

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
February 5, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button: 📢

Passage 7 - Las Cienegas
January 11, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button: 📢
Passage 6 - Las Colinas
January 8, 2009

To see a slideshow of other photos from this work event, click on this button:  

On Mark Flint's work event Saturday we had a sentinel moment in that we connected in to the finished conservation crew's trail to the north. Now we have 8.5 miles of new trail that we have completed since last October. Simply amazing! Thanks for all your past help in completing such a beautiful trail in such a beautiful area. Hikers, bikers, and equestrians will enjoy it for hundreds of years to come I hope.

Lee Allen

Passage 22 - Saddle Mountain
December 3-10, 2008

A nine member Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) crew spent from about noon on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 to about noon on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 doing great work in maintaining much of the Arizona Trail's Passage 22 (Saddle Mountain) from a quarter of a mile south of the junction of Sunflower Trail #344 and Little Saddle Mountain Trail #244 to the junction of Trail #244 with the Saddle Mountain Trail #91. The crew was staffed by Kyle Williams, Crew Leader; Judy Tincher, Assistant Crew Leader; Emily Barrett; Lucy Cohen; Dave Hibbard-Riddle; Rob Langfield; Greg Lanard; Chaz Perry; and Laren Schmacher. They camped at the Mormon Grove Trailhead, then spent Thursday, December 4, rebuilding tread and repairing a severely eroded stretch of the trail going south from the junction of Trails #244 and #91 for about 200 yards. The other seven days were consumed in clearing the heavily overgrown trail corridor and in building cairns. Jeff Haught, the owner of the Cross F Ranch near Sunflower, AZ, and who has a grazing permit on this part of the National Forest, was so pleased with the crew's work that he donated steaks for a supper for the crew.

The coordination for and the employment of the crew was through the efforts of Annie McVay of the Arizona State Parks, Allison Laramee of CREC, Debbie Becker of the Tonto National Forest, and of Laddie Cox, the Arizona Trail Association's Hit and Run Crew Leader. Laddie deployed the crew and worked with it for two days during this period.
Passage 15 - Tortilla Mountains
November 22-23, 2008

We had a windy start to our weekend when several of us arrived Friday afternoon, but that didn’t stop us from enjoying the camaraderie and the beautiful desert.
Saturday morning brought the arrival of the rest of our crew and we proceeded to put in a full day of maintenance work. The crew did a great job brushing and grubbing, repairing the tread, and, under Laddie’s expert direction, building numerous water erosion control devices.
We followed up our workday with an excellent potluck style Happy Hour, accompanied by an impressive selection of New Belgium Brewing Company products. Many of us inspected Brad’s solar powered converted VW bus, complete with teak flooring. Very interesting! Dinner followed with tasty mesquite grilled bratwurst and veggie burgers eaten around the campfire just as the sun made a spectacular final display as it slipped below the horizon. After that we drew for raffle prizes and then scarfed down a gooey chocolate cake for dessert. Most of us hit the hay early, but a few folks stoked the fire and contemplated the ways of the world for a while longer.
On Sunday morning, following a pancake and sausage breakfast, we continued our maintenance work, knocking off around noon. Our group maintained over 2 miles of trail during this event and had a great time doing it.
Thanks to our volunteers: Carl and David Babcock, Bruce Blackburn, Brad Boyle, Shay Cardell, Laddie Cox, Joe Drozdowski, Jerry Fimbres, Jim Gomon, Ed Hiebert, David Klein, Charlie and Margaret Medernach, David and Derek Mills, Melissa Munalt, Jerry Nash, Tasha Nelson, and Bill Ross. I can’t forget to thank our sponsors: The ATA, The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona, and New Belgium Brewing Company.

Anna Pfender

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
November 20, 2008

From the Las Colinas Crazies (formerly the Summer Crazies).
With our last Thursday event plus the Mark Flint event on Sunday, we now have about nine-tenths of a mile done north of FR 231. Better yet, we have only a little over a THIRD of a mile left to connect up with where the Southwest Conservation Corps have finished trail for about 4.5 miles to the north heading toward the forest service boundary. There is about 1.5 miles unfinished from there to the forest service border. We currently have a great trail, built in a very beautiful area. Come have a look see.

Lee Allen
Passage 16 - White Canyon
November 13-16, 2008

The November 13-16, 2008 work event on segment B of the White Canyon Passage was successful: no one was hurt, a lot was accomplished, and a good time was had by all. The goal of the event - to provide a very 'hikeable' trail/route from north of the trestle bridge to the artesian well in Walnut Canyon for the 2009 hiking season - was more than accomplished.

Now there is a reliagged, lightly brushed route from the Kelvin bridge area to north of the trestle bridge, and then a finished trail of 5 miles leading almost to the artesian well. And approximately three miles of trail on the 'big hill' south of the Florence Kelvin Road was brushed.

A pleasant surprise was the amount of trail a three person mechanical excavator contracted crew, YRU, built over nine days overlapping the ATA work event. All volunteers watched the excavator build trail and were impressed with the amount of trail built. In fact, so much trail was built by YRU that work assignments of the volunteer crews changed.

Camp for the work event was located at A Diamond Ranch - many thanks to Greg and Gary Vinson for hosting the work crew. Crew leaders Laddie Cox, Diane Wertz, and John Rendall arrived Wednesday for a walk thru for assignments for the following day. There was still a small flow of water in the Gila River, even though water from the dam had stopped flowing three weeks earlier. Some hopped from stone to stone; others waded in sandals; a few splashed in bare feet; and a few got their boots wet.

Guppers, precooked by Judy Gaudet, were reheated and served before dark each evening. Merle Parmer helped cook breakfasts. New Belgium Brewery provided liquid refreshments.

Thanks to the flexible and dedicated volunteers for this event: John Rendall, Laddie Cox, Diane Wertz, Gary Hohner, David Babcock, Carl
Babcock, Charlie Metternach, Dick Wertz, Terry Woolston, Tim McCabe, Tasha Nelson, Shawn Redfield, Dave Burkett, Joe Longbotham, Bob Baldwin, Rosemary Berba, Bill Webster, Bill Ross, Shay Cardell, Paul Finsness, Merle Parme, and Judy Gaudet. Dave Hicks, Executive Director of ATA, spent Thursday and Friday morning supporting the work event. Francisco Mendoza, from the BLM Tucson office worked Thursday on the rock gulch and came back out Saturday morning to finalize the trail through the rock gulch. Jeff Larkin, BLM AZ Trail point person, worked Thursday morning with one of the crews.

Fred Gaudet

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Passage 6 - Las Colinas
October 30, 2008

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Passage 6 - Las Colinas
October 26, 2008
Passage 6: Las Colinas
October 19, 2008
Passage 6 - Las Colinas
October 2, 2008

Hello again from the Summer Crazies. On October 2nd we continued our good work towards connecting our unfinished section between FR 231 and FR 4064 in the Las Colinas section of the Santa Rita’s. We are now down to about 0.4 miles left to do in the middle between the two marks. The weather has cooled down a little so we have been able to get a lot of trail built. As you can see by the happy faces of the dogs, cool is good.

Lee Allen

Passage 1 - Huachuca Mountains
September 29 - October 3, 2008

From Monday, September 29 through Friday, October 3, the Arizona Trail Association sponsored an eight person crew from the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) for work in the Huachuca Mountains. The crew cleared the portion of The Arizona Trail in Passage 1 between Bear
Saddle and Bathhtub Springs. This part of the trail was very heavily overgrown with fire re-generation shrub oak, ceanothus and other vegetation. There were many dead-fall trees blocking the trail as well. We camped at Bear Springs, which is about 1/2 mile to the west and down the mountain on the Ida Canyon Trail from Bear Saddle. On the first day, Zay Hartigan and his two pack horses and one saddle horse packed in much of the crew’s food, tools and gear. We hiked in via the Ida Canyon Trail and removed any obstacles which would hinder Zay and his animals. Upon arrival at Bear Springs, the crew went to work and soon gathered up enough trash, left mostly by illegals, in the immediate vicinity of the spring to provided a load for Zay’s pack animals to haul out. Most of the next morning was spent in clearing the trail from Bear Springs to Bear Saddle so that the crew would have reasonable access to and from the AZT each day. We reached Bathtub Springs, our primary goal on Thursday afternoon, October 2. The next morning, the crew worked west/northwest from Bear Saddle until about 10 AM. We then returned to camp, dismantled it and hiked out to the Ida Canyon Trailhead.

Marena Chamberlin was the crew-leader and Nich Boynton-Steele was the assistant crew-leader of this SCC crew. Zac Ribbing of the Coronado National Forest also contributed great advice, guidance, and hard work to this endeavor.

Laddle Cox
ATA Hit & Run Crew Leader

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**Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks**

**September 27, 2008**

The September 27 Public Lands Day found about 100 workers gathered to help "Close the San Francisco Peaks Gap" in the Arizona Trail. This last event of the 2008 season celebrated the opening of a new section of the AZ Trail between the Aspen Loop and Bismarck Lake. It is a beautiful trail destination, and already it is receiving a lot of use. We look forward to 2009 events to extend the trail northward.

These "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" events on the San Francisco Peaks passage are a cooperative effort of the Coconino Forest Service, the Arizona Trail Association, and the ATA Flagstaff area trail stewards. The leaders for the September event were ATA trail stewards Paul Conn and Dorothy Boulton; they also deserve recognition for many hours of trail preparation and layout work during the 2008 season.

Volunteers included members of the Flagstaff Hiking Club, Flagstaff Biking, the Sierra Club, Forestry students from NAU and a large group from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) as well as the continued support of many ATA members and many other organizations. We are grateful to each and every volunteer. Thanks also to Bruce Blackburn, Allison Laramee and Paul Conn for these photographs.

Stay tuned for the 2009 "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" events on the San Francisco Peaks.

Gay Hohner
Passage 6 - Las Colinas
August 21 & September 4, 2008

The Las Colinas Summer Crazies have had two more outstanding Thursday work events. We are about a quarter of a mile from having the trail completed from Oak Tree Canyon Road (FR 4072) to the Rosemont Junction Road (FR 231). The work crews have remained small; however, the amount of trail completed has been significant. Lee Allen has served as crew leader, with regular crew members of: Jim Ambrose, Tori Kimmel, Richard Humphrey, Laddie Cox, Jim Shea, Mike Pratt and Chaco (The Dog), Walt Tannert, Sirena Dufault, Max Frye, Larry Schnebly and George Price. Guidance was provided from the USFS through Zac Ribbing and from ATA Regional Trail Steward Bernie Stalmann. Photos and videos were completed by Rich Grodzicki. Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers. Any rumors of aliens using our trails are totally false.

Besides these photos of the event, you can also download another video slideshow (with a soundtrack) produced by Rich Grodzicki. There are a lot of great pictures of the work events and the people involved.

Las Colinas Slideshow #4 (4.7 MB).

Note: This is a Windows Media Video format file and requires RealPlayer or equivalent software to view.
great planning and leadership. This season we have had many "unsung heroes" who have done preparation work on the trail as well as planning before each event. We have many dedicated volunteers who return to help at second and third events, and some who will have done all four. Dedicated volunteers plus teamwork produce good results. Interruption by the rain and hail on Saturday plus Sunday morning’s cancellation due to threatening weather greatly cut into the work time.

In spite of this, we added about 0.37 miles of new trail. Campers had a nice social time Saturday evening and a beautiful sky; check out Chuck Williams’ photo of the evening view. Many undaunted Flagstaff area volunteers returned to the work site Sunday morning. Everyone pitched in to make for a speedy clean up. Thanks to these Flagstaff-area businesses and organizations who helped to supply prizes, food, or beverages for the August event: Campus Coffee Bean, Fry’s Food & Drug, Northern Arizona University Center for High Altitude Training, Subway – 1000 N. Humphreys, Safeway Food & Drug – Highway 89, and Wal-Mart. The "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" t-shirts have been a popular bonus for volunteers at each event, and we are grateful for the funds supplied by Dr. Bruce J. Lachot and Dr. Kent C. Loo, Body Stabilization Training, Arizona Snowbowl, and Gentlemen’s Literary Society; these funds made the t-shirts possible for this summer’s four "Close the Gap" events on the San Francisco Peaks.

Lunches, a t-shirt or a prize are really nice, but the greatest reward is the sense of accomplishment our volunteers share. Thanks again to each of our old friends and new friends and their continued support. Now everyone is looking forward to the September event and the likely completion of the summer’s goals. Stay tuned for further developments on page 34.

Besides the gap in the San Francisco Peaks, there are a few other gaps in the Arizona Trail. Maintenance work events are also fun and very important events. And when the snow starts to fly on the San Francisco Peaks, there will be still be opportunities for volunteer work in the southern part of the Arizona Trail.

Gay Hohner
Passage 6 - Las Colinas  
July 31 & August 7, 2008

Once again the Las Colinas Summer Crazies have had another two outstanding Thursday work events. We are about a half mile from having the trail completed from Oak Tree Canyon Road (FR 4077) to the Rosemont Junction Road (FR 231). We have enjoyed the easier working soil conditions with our monsoon rains but they have brought a different challenge in higher temps and humidity.

My personal thanks go out to Lee Allen who has done a great job this summer as crew leader. Rich Grodzicki who enjoys doing our scenic videos for all the AZT world to enjoy, and our regular crew members: Jim Ambrose, Tom Kimmel, Richard Humphrey, Laddie Cox, Jim Shea, Mike Pratt and Chaco, Walt Tannert, Sirena Dufault, Max Frye, and this last event two newcomers, Larry Jones and Gwynne Boucher. Many thanks to all of you for your dedicated efforts. And a special appreciation to Laura Ory, reporter for the Sierra Vista Herald, for her fine efforts in telling Cochise County about the fun we have building the Arizona Trail.

Bernie Stalman

Besides these photos of the event, you can also download another video slideshow (with a soundtrack) produced by Rich Grodzicki. There are a lot of great pictures of the work events and the people involved.

Las Colinas Slideshow #2 (3.5 MB).

Note: This is a Windows Media Video format file and requires realPlayer or equivalent software to view.

Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks  
July 26-27, 2008

The results of the second "Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail" event are 0.65 mile of new Arizona Trail, many new friendships and a shared sense of accomplishment. There were 66 people who helped at some time over the weekend, and many of these worked both Saturday and Sunday.

These "Close the Gap" events are a cooperative effort of the Coconino Forest Service, the Arizona Trail Association, Flagstaff Biking Organization, Northern Arizona Trail Runners, Flagstaff Hiking Club, and many other statewide volunteers. Each event is being led by Flagstaff area trail stewards for the Arizona Trail, and Anthony Quintile of
Flagstaff Biking Organization and Neil Weintraub of Northern Arizona Trail Runners were the leaders for this event. The diverse group of volunteers came from Flagstaff and other communities statewide. They included members of FBO, NATRA and ATA as well as many other interested equestrians, bike riders, hikers and runners. Teamwork and a wonderful group of volunteers produced a great weekend.

As I try to write the accolades due to so many people, it becomes difficult because the list needs to include everyone. What is clear is that the spirit of teamwork and the contagious enthusiasm of the volunteers are really what make these events successful. For example, those Sunday morning workers couldn’t wait to get back down the hill, and by 7 AM many of them were on their way.

Every single volunteer’s contribution is important. These events bring the nicest people together. Thanks to each of you.

Gay Hohner

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
June 18 - July 17, 2008

Construction continues on the Las Colinas passage, even in the heat of the summer. Weekly work events and enthusiastic crew members have built a lot of new trail. A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped.

Besides these photos of the event, you can also download another video slideshow (with a soundtrack). This one was also produced by Rich
Grodzicki and has a lot of great pictures of the work events and the people involved.

**Las Colinas Slideshow #2 (2.5 MB).**

*Note: This is a Windows Media Video format file and requires realPlayer or equivalent software to view.*

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**Passage 34 - San Francisco Peaks**  
**June 28-29, 2008**

Thanks to each of our dedicated volunteers both before and during the June 28-29 weekend, the June event was a great success. About 60 ATA volunteers, friends and trail enthusiasts from many areas of Arizona gathered early Saturday, and about 35 returned to work again Sunday morning. The result was 0.68 mile of new Arizona Trail in the San Francisco Peaks passage.

The years between Dale Shewalter’s early scouting trip for a long-distance trail across the length of Arizona to the more than 94% complete Arizona Trail of 2008 tell an inspiring story. Now the momentum and excitement are growing to finish the Arizona Trail. The San Francisco Peaks segment is the longest gap; when this is completed, there will be about 16 additional miles of trail in the Flagstaff area. The Arizona Trail Association organized four summer events to begin to “Close the Gap.”

The Flagstaff area trail stewards for the Arizona Trail joined forces to lead four trail building events the fourth weekends of June, July, August and September. These “Close the Gap” events are a cooperative effort of the Coconino Forest Service, the Arizona Trail Association, Flagstaff Biking Organization, Northern Arizona Trail Runners, Flagstaff Hiking Club, and many other statewide volunteers.

Thanks are due to this season’s “Close the Gap - Finish the Arizona Trail” t-shirt sponsors: **Dr. Bruce J. Lachot and Dr. Kent C. Loo**, Body Stabilization Training, Arizona Snowbowl, and Gentlemen’s Literary Society.

If you would like to help “Close the Gap” in the San Francisco Peaks passage, please see the Events Calendar to make reservations for the August 23-24 and September 27 events.

We are grateful to each of our enthusiastic volunteers. Every one of you can truly say, “I helped finish the Arizona Trail.”

Gay and Gary Hohner  
Andrea and David Michaels
Passage 15 - Tortilla Mountains  
April 12-13, 2008

This work event brought our dedicated Boulders volunteers north to the Ripsey Wash segment for some much needed maintenance and signage installation. We camped in Ripsey Wash and worked the trail south of there, which was a fun change from our usual work and campsites in the Boulders area. We had a huge turnout with 18 volunteers, including 2 new volunteers, who made their way up the wash for a weekend of good company, great food and drink, and of course, satisfying trail work.

The weather was perfect Saturday morning and our group split up into two crews. My crew proceeded south on the trail and immediately tackled thick brush and crumbling tread as the trail made its way up and out of Ripsey Wash. After finally working our way up to a ridge we were greeted by a scattering of orange mariposa lilies and other lovely wildflowers. Then it was a steep descent on an old two-track down to another wash where the trail works its way along the sides of the wash, crossing it many times for quite some distance. Work included lots of brushing and grubbing and minor tread repair. The second crew, led by John Rendall, set out in vehicles to install signage and cairns further south along the segment.

We all met back at camp later in the day and indulged in Happy Hour that included lots of great snacks, New Belgium beer and a raffle prize giveaway. This was followed by a dinner of grilled chicken and burgers accompanied by beans and potato salad. Later we had a great time around the campfire enjoying Jerry Nash and Mike Hallen’s marvelous
TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2007-2010

Dutch oven cobbler.
After our pancake breakfast on Sunday, we continued our work along the wash. We also installed some signs and added some cairns along the route. Our crews did a fine job and made significant improvements to the Ripsey segment during our work weekend. Many thanks to volunteers, Carl and David Babcock, Terry Dutton, Jean and Jerry Fimbres, Mike and Sylvia Hallen, Chuck Horner, Chris Jackson, Charlie and Margaret Medernach, Jerry Nash, Tasha Nelson, Merle Parmar, Shawn Redfield, John Rendall and Bill Ross for their excellent work and commitment to the Arizona Trail. Of course all of the fun, food, and drink wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the ATA, the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona, and New Belgium Brewing Company. Thank you all!

Anna Pfender

Passage 6 - Las Colinas
April 5-6, 2008

Construction is moving along on the Las Colinas passage. The first weekend in April brought out a large group of volunteers and the Sweco Trail Dozer. This miniature bulldozer allows basic tread to be established very quickly, with a support crew following along doing finish work. At the completion of this work event the Las Colinas passage now has 3.9 miles of trail built. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

Besides these photos of the event, you can also download a video slideshow (with a soundtrack) of this work event. It was produced by Rich Grodzicki and has a lot of great pictures of the work event and the people involved.

Las Colinas Slideshow (2.8 MB).
Note: This is a Windows Media Video format file and requires realPlayer or equivalent software to view.
March 15-16, 2008

An unusually high number of previous engagements conspired to diminish our volunteer turnout on this weekend to 5. But that didn’t stop us from accomplishing a good deal of maintenance and throwing back a bunch of New Belgiums after the work was done.

On Saturday, newly appointed Regional Chief Trail Steward John Rendall worked with our group to reset the bench and do brushing on the hillside south of the saddle near Tacolote Ranch. Speaking of Tacolote Ranch, we were surprised to discover that the ranch was hosting some sort of weekend retreat for young people that included horseback riding on the Arizona Trail. How nice to see so many equestrians out on the Boulders Segment! After our work for the day was finished we said farewell to John who had a previous engagement that night. Enough with the previous engagements! The rest of us settled in for Happy Hour followed pretty quickly by a dinner of frittata, beans, guacamole and all the fixins. We finished out the evening chatting around the campfire and hit the sack pretty early.

There had been dire weather forecasts for rain during the weekend and we had been pretty lucky. By lunchtime on Sunday we still hadn’t rained on. On the contrary, we were getting snowed on! After about an hour or so of off and on flurries we decided to call it a weekend and headed for home. The only casualty of the weekend was Tasha’s boots that finally gave out on her. I didn’t think I had worked her that hard . . .

As usual, I couldn’t have done it alone and I would like to thank my volunteers, Melissa Mundt, Tasha Nelson, Shawn Redfield and John Rendall for their excellent work. Also, many thanks to my sponsors: the ATA, the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona, and New Belgium Brewing Company.

Anna Pfender

Passage 15 - Tortilla Mountains
February 16-17, 2008

We had a cold, wet and snowy start, but amazingly 20 brave souls slipped and slid their way down Freeman Road for what turned out to be a great weekend on the Arizona Trail. Those who arrived Friday were treated to 10 hours of nonstop rain followed by snow and sleet during the night with temperatures in the very low 30’s. For those of us arriving Saturday morning, the rain and snow had ceased, but Freeman Road was the muddiest I’ve ever seen it. We got to work a bit later than planned, but our full crew dug right in under cloudy skies and temperatures in the 40’s all day. We put in a full day of maintenance work nevertheless and the crew did a great job brushing and grubbing, repairing the tread and water erosion control devices (rock work) and installing some Carsonite signs.

We followed our workday with an excellent potluck style Happy Hour that quickly moved around the campfire with temperatures dropping fast, even though it was still an hour or so till dark. We enjoyed a marvelous selection of New Belgium’s finest along with some of their nifty schwag for raffle prizes and then it was time to start preparing our spaghetti dinner. By that time our fire was pretty big and pretty warm too. After dinner Jerry Nash treated us to a terrific Dutch oven cherry cobbler! That certainly took the edge off, at least for a little while. When bedtime came I think we were all kind of reluctant to trade the warmth of the fire for ice covered tents and frosty sleeping bags.

Sunday morning brought even colder temperatures with a reading from Carl Babcock at 28 degrees. After getting the coffee on and chipping the ice out of the dogs’ water bowl we got our pancake and sausage breakfast going and huddled around the camp stoves and restarted campfire for warmth. The clear weather that brought the colder night also brought a lovely day for trail work. We continued our maintenance work where we left off the day before and completed almost 2 miles of trail improvement for the weekend!

A hearty thanks to our volunteers who showed great courage and stepped up to the mud bog challenges: Carl and David Babcock, Dave Burkett, Shane Elliott, Bob Erickson, Jerry Embres, Mike and Sylvia Hallen, David Klein, Joe Longbotham, Marty McDonough, David Mills, Derek Mills, Jerry Nash, Tasha Nelson, Bill and Diane Ross, Charlie Smith, and Jim Spellman. I especially want to thank David Klein, David Mills and Jerry Nash for their help with the meals and the Babocks for the use of their EZ-up and camp gear. It was truly a group effort and I couldn’t have done it all alone. I can’t forget our sponsors: The Arizona Trail Association, The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona and New Belgium Brewing Company.

Thank you all!
Anna Pfender

![Jerry Fimbres getting ready to prune back a bush along the trail.](image1)

![Veteran volunteer David Babcock works his magic with the "pretty" rocks.](image2)

ATA Rendezvous/Trail Day Celebration
September 28-30, 2007

What a great weekend for Arizona Trail aficionados. Thanks to all of you who enjoyed the many activities, worked on the interpretive trail, pledged some precious dollars and spent time enjoying our Arizona Trail. And an additional thanks to our sponsors: Terry Woolston, Mormon Lake Lodge, REI, Wells Fargo Bank, Compass Bank, Freeport McMoran Copper & Gold, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange, Summit Hut, Whitneybell Perry Architects and Salt River Project.

![Crew Leader Richard Corbett outlines the day's work for the new Mormon Lake interpretive trail.](image3)

![Gail Starr entertained attendees during dinner with her stellar strumming and singing of classic western tunes.](image4)

![Smokey gets a high five from a](image5)

![Hualepai the burro and Tom Taylor of BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program make friends with an Arizona Trail Day visitor.](image6)

![Bernie Stalmann, American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year - Southwest Region (left), and Dale Shewalter, founder of the Arizona Trail, swap stories about the trail.](image7)
young fan.

The dinner line on Saturday evening, waiting patiently for the excellent meal prepared by the Mormon Lake Lodge crew.

Saturday night, after dinner, we learned the history of John Wesley Powell’s journeys down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

Those who stuck around camp on Sunday morning were treated to Dale Shewalter’s Tales of the Trail session. Dale and his wife Madeleine facilitated a discussion of the trail - past present and future.