



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

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[12/13/14 - Highline](#)  
[11/17/14 - Four Peaks](#)  
[11/13/14 - Temporal Gulch](#)  
[11/05/14 - Oracle](#)  
[11/02/14 - Oracle Ridge](#)  
[10/18/14 - Highline](#)  
[09/06/14 - Coconino Rim](#)  
[08/31/14 - Flagstaff](#)  
[08/26/14 - Santa Rita Mountains](#)  
[08/19/14 - Rincon Valley](#)  
[08/16/14 - Flagstaff](#)  
[08/05/14 - Hardscrabble Mesa](#)  
[07/19/14 - Mormon Lake](#)  
[07/10/14 - Temporal Gulch](#)  
[06/09/14 - Kaibab Plateau South](#)  
[05/14/14 - Mazatzal Divide](#)  
[05/03/14 - Reavis Canyon](#)  
[04/23/14 - Saddle Mountain](#)  
[04/17/14 - Gila River Canyons](#)  
[04/09/14 - Las Cienegas](#)  
[04/04/14 - Santa Catalina Mountains & Oracle Ridge](#)  
[03/22/14 - Elden Mountain](#)  
[03/22/14 - Steward Training](#)  
[03/18/14 - Gila River Canyons](#)  
[03/08/14 - Las Colinas](#)  
[03/07/14 - Rincon Mountains](#)  
[02/10/14 - Gila River Canyons](#)  
[01/11/14 - Santa Rita Mountains](#)

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## Passage 27 - Highline December 13-14, 2014

The ATA's gate upgrade initiative marches on, this weekend with two super-gates installed at the Pine TH. This was the farthest north gates have been installed to date, and the first time the crew had snow to contend with--not much but definitely snow on the ground. Another first this time around is the great collaboration between the USFS, the Arizona Trail Association and the Pine-Strawberry Fuels Reduction Inc. ([psfuelreduction.org/about-us](http://psfuelreduction.org/about-us)) who warrant a special thanks for the assistance Sunday and the great lunch served at site!

The first gate was placed directly east of the TH parking lot. The Pine-Strawberry Fuels Reduction group recently rebuilt the trail between TH and the first creek crossing to the east, so the gate is a nice touch on the new alignment. The second gate was installed a few hundred yards south of the TH, near where the trail makes a sharp turn towards the highway. ATV abuse had been an issue in this location but no more!



Out comes the old



Chelsea securing the site for the night, in the snow



Pine TH winter sunrise



Delivering gate #1



About done here

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# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014



Here comes gate #2



There goes gate #2



Most of the crew



Number 2 all done



Number 1 all done

## Passage 20 - Four Peaks November 17, 2014

The small fire on Four Peaks last summer didn't get much press, but it left its mark on the Shake Spring area. While it could have been much worse, the burned areas are feeling the pain from post-fire erosion. As of today the FS took the first steps to mitigate that damage.

Hay and "waddles" (the long tubes of straw you see along the highway) were hauled up the mountain, then transferred to horses for a 10-mile trek to the burn areas. On Wednesday, November 19th a 10-person youth crew will assemble and hike in to spend 8 days completing Shake Spring. They will spread the hay uphill from the trail, and then build rock walls on the downhill side of the trail, and complete stabilization work to attempt to hold the trail in place. It will be 2-3 years before vegetation comes back sufficient to hold the soil in place then if resources are available the trail will be finished. There is little point in rebuilding a trail if the hillside above it is going to come down the next gully washer.

The hay and horses came up the mountain in trailers; I'm glad I didn't have to drive for that trip. Going down the mountain the horses had to be unloaded and walked down the steepest parts because the truck didn't have sufficient braking capabilities to hold on that crumbly surface.

AZT Hero Paul "Pablo" Burghard of the Globe Ranger District organized the work, which was funded with BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) funds.

S. Redfield



## Passage 4 - Temporal Gulch November 13, 2014

The Arizona Trail Association's assault on narrow gates continued with two gates near the north end of Passage 4 getting the treatment. Gate number one for the day lies along the road about a half mile south of the north TH. The old one didn't look like it held much livestock in or out, there wasn't even a latch on it, but it held the fence in place and was too narrow for pack stock traveling the trail. F. Bauer, ATA trail-friendly welder, fabricated the replacement gate out of materials salvaged from gates replaced by the super gates being installed in more visible locations. With a full complement of tools and materials, the usual suspects met at I-10 and the Sonoita Highway at 8:00 AM and headed to the site.

The old gate was quickly dispatched; the salvaged materials will roll into the project and reappear as part of a future installation. Digging holes for the new one went a bit slower than expected. Several mid-westerners on the crew longed for those loamy soils where post holes can be dug without the aid of heavy equipment or light explosives. Soon though they were of sufficient depth, the gate dropped in and leveled, and the concrete mixed and poured. The hole digging really is the hard part of the project, having now installed ~9 gates, the crew is pretty adept at it.

Gate number two was something new - no digging! An existing adjoining post was incorporated into the design and the narrow gate site (well, Rob made it look simple) stretched to reach it, and the overhead brace extended to the new latch post. Huge thanks to Mike, an unseen but critical member of this operation. Mike took pictures and measurements of the old gate and emailed them to the crew so Rob could do much of the fabrication in his shop. All went incredibly smoothly, thanks largely to the precise information Mike provided.

The biggest challenge was getting the heavy generator and welder down, and back up, the steep trail to the gate. The gate lies just off Gardner Canyon Road over about 250 feet of steep, rocky trail. Rob brought a large kart of his own design and construction that worked perfectly. Four beefy fellows muscled the kart and equipment down the trail to the site, and then hauled down tools and water for fire protection. The fence wires were removed and Rob made short work of the cutting and re-welding. Mike's dimensions were spot-on and the new gate fit like a glove.

These were the easy ones, the remaining problem gates are some distance from a road so we will be looking for a way to haul everything to the sites. Everyone convened to the Ranch House in Sonoita for post-project lunch and trail talk—another great day on the AZT!



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

Thanks to Rob, Mike, Tom, Scot, Lee, Jan, and - for this trip - Moqui.



Unclear what this gate holds in or out



Digging the holes



Looking good



Usual Suspects and Moqui



There is a gate behind those guys



Before



Generator on the kart - worked great



Out comes the old, water for fire protection



In goes the new



All done

## Passage 13 - Oracle November 5, 2014

The Saddle Brooke Hiking Club has adopted the Oracle Passage of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The club's first work day was held November 5. Sixteen enthusiastic hiking club members participated. Arizona Trail Association Trail Director Shawn Redfield and Region Steward Don Washco provided training and leadership in trail maintenance activities.

The Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail ambles 8 miles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east Oracle State Park. The work event focused on two miles south of the American Flag Ranch TH. Volunteers worked on removing overgrc and reducing trail erosion. Three hours of steady work resulted in much progress.

Satisfied participants were Mary Croft, Ray Peale, Jackie Hall, Walt Shields, Roger Hove, Elaine Fagan, Sandra Sowell, Kathy Gish, Tom Detinger, Fred Norris, Fred Kennedy, Garrett Rensing, Cheryl Werstler, Glanda Molgat, Paul Molgat, and Elisabeth Wheeler. The group is planning similar events for January, February and March.

Elisabeth Wheeler



## Passage 12 - Oracle Ridge November 2, 2014

On November 2, 2014 3 intrepid volunteers joined me on a 16 mile trek from the summit of Mt. Lemmon to Sabino Canyon, replacing beat up and battered trail signs with new signs sporting the Arizona Trail National Scenic trail logo. We met at Tom Kimmel's house @ Tom generously drove us up the mountain. The weather quickly deteriorated getting colder and foggier as we went. By the time we reached the top, the fog was as thick as pea soup, temperature of about 39 and winds blowing almost to the point of blowing you off the trail.

Nobody even winced. We donned our gear, loaded up our packs with the 4 new signs, hammers, chisels, wrenches and other assorted heavy) tools and proceeded down the Lemmon Rock Lookout trail. We reached our first destination, the junction of the Lemmon Rock Lookout Trail and the Wilderness of Rocks Trail in less than an hour. The weather had moderated with the decrease in elevation and protection of the valley. Out came the new sign and tools. There is a learning curve to working in the back country but Tom had given every tool that we could possibly need plus valuable tips from previous sign replacements. Within 1/2 hour, the old sign was dispatched new sign mounted.

Another hour+ and we reached the Mt. Lemmon Trail junction. This time, the old sign was down and new one up within minutes as we learned the drill. Off to Romero Pass. Heading down the steep and seemingly endless Mt. Lemmon Trail towards Romero Pass, the wind picked up in the open terrain and it was still heavy fog just feet above us. We were, however, able to enjoy the lack of thorny brush overgrowing the trail as the benefits of last spring's work were quite evident.

The sign at Romero Pass was old, weathered and rusted onto the pole. This one wasn't going to go easily but an hour later, we had new techniques and had the replacement sign mounted. After the grueling decline to Romero Pass, the trip to the Cathedral Rocks Trail Junction on the West Fork Trail was a breeze. While there are a number of small washouts (< 1foot) and a good amount of grass overgrowing the trail, the tread is good and this trail was so well designed when built that it's always an easy go. The 4th and final sign quickly replaced, we all had some lunch and then headed out for the final 7.5 or was it going to be 11.3 miles home. We had been una secure transportation from stop 9 to the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, so we knew that if we didn't make the final shuttle it was another



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

miles of hiking to the finish. We knew that the last shuttle left stop 9 sometime between 4:30 and 5 o'clock. It was 1:30 when we heard the shuttle out.

As we went, the weather broke, the sun came out and the valley sparkled with the green from recent rains. It couldn't have been a more beautiful day. But the pounding of descending 6,000' was beginning to take its toll. Feet and various other body parts were getting sore and we needed rest and nourishment. We balanced this against the likelihood of having to hike that extra 3.8 miles. We were not optimistic but we kept on.

Finally, stop 9 came into view. It was 4:30 and there was a shuttle approaching. Was it the final one of the day? We were still 1/2 mile away. The shuttle left and we continued down. We had called Tom and asked him to pick us up at the visitor center at 6 thinking that we had missed the last shuttle. It was 4:45 when we sat down at stop 9 for a rest before heading down the road. Ah, but then came the rumbly tram and sure enough, one final shuttle was coming up the hill. A sigh of relief was heard throughout the canyon! The shuttle came to a stop and a very friendly driver told us to make ourselves comfortable and then generously accepted our money for the trip down the hill. A call to Tom for an earlier pickup, a ride down the hill on the tram and a celebratory dinner courtesy of Mr. Kimmel finished off a very good day.

Thanks to my incredible volunteers: Lee Allen, Scott Casterlin, Jackie Marcus and of course Tom Kimmel.



## Passage 27 - Highline October 18-19, 2014

Hiking and Scouting met face-to-face this weekend with Quinn Robidoux's Eagle Scout project. Quinn organized the troops for a realignment around a section of washed out, entrenched trail about a mile east Red Rock Spring. The trail dipped sharply into a gully, then climbed the other side; both inclines were deeply entrenched.

The 250-foot solution contoured around the north side of the gully through thick brush. Don Washco and Shawn Redfield flagged the route in early September, Quinn and his father scouted out the project, the FS gave the OK, and the project was scheduled. Everyone met at the Control Road/Trail 294 junction Saturday morning. ATA had the trailer waiting. The 1.75 mile hike up to the work site got the blood flowing.

Saturday the crew cleared the brush and refined the new route. Brush was thick and a few roots required major effort. By 4:00 PM the alignment was open, most brush eliminated and everyone was feeling good about the accomplishment. We trudged back down for the night.

Sunday the crew reassembled, with reinforcements, at 7:00 AM. Clouds threatened but were clearing, so the project continued. More crew members and tools were added to the arsenal and off the crew went back up the hill. No route finding issues today; it was all familiar ground.

"Trail building" began in earnest Sunday. Quinn assigned the crew to various sections of trail and the dirt began to fly. The bench quickly emerged and then lengthened. A few more bushes were vanquished as the trail found its route. Heavy rock was hauled in to reinforce a couple of sections and many stubborn brush roots were chopped out of another to make a wider trail. Once the bench was established the crew worked to widen it to the necessary 24 inches. By lunch time things were shaping up nicely.

Finish work picked up after lunch. Brush was piled on the old trail to close it, the bench was tweaked and back slope finessed, berms removed, side slope checked and increased, and roots and hat-racks removed. By 2:00 PM the new trail was looking pretty good and the skies were looking pretty bad—the storms that threatened in the morning were gathering for another assault on the Rim. Everyone gathered the tools, packed up and headed downhill. The rain held off almost until we reached the cars. Tools were stored back in the trailer, the picture taken, goodbyes shared, and everyone climbed into the cars.

It was a great weekend fixing a long-standing sore spot on the AZT. Thanks to Quinn and his troop of scouts and family!



In the beginning . . .



A tough section



Tough section looking better



Starting to look like a route



The crew, day one



Hiking in under a slowly clearing sky



. . . and in completion

## Passage 36 - Coconino Rim September 6, 2014

The day was bright and clear on the Kaibab with big blue skies and huge puffy clouds; it is always a treat to visit this remote and beautiful section of the AZT. Ian, Emily, Scott, Shawn and Tracy met up to install two more of the redwood signs along the trail. Today it was the



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

crossings at FR 313 and 310 that received fresh signs. ATA is replacing the weathered originals on the AZT across the Kaibab National Today's event finished the second batch of signs. Dave Seigal did the fancy woodworking for the first batch; Gary Hohner did this one. field crew got them planted with a little help from several energetic four-legged crew members. Ian was anxious to get them in before Stagecoach 100 coming up later this month—mission accomplished.



Before



Tracy disassembles the old sign



Getting into it



Finishing up



This helper has lots of energy but shows difficulty staying on task



All done

## Passage 33 - Flagstaff August 31, 2014

Volunteers for the Arizona Trail help in many, often unheralded, ways! Recently both Jane Jackson, frequent trail worker, and Anne Webber, Steward for 34e, manned an information table at the Sunday Flagstaff Community Market. They answered questions and showed locals and visitors how the 800+ miles snakes through the state as well as connects to numerous loop hikes with forest and FUTS trails.

Do you know of another appropriate venue to spread the word? Tell us at [ata@aztrail.org](mailto:ata@aztrail.org).



## Passage 5 - Santa Rita Mountains August 26, 2014

### Kentucky Camp Two for One Gate Installation

Continuing the gate replacement effort, the usual suspects plus a couple unusual ones gathered at Kentucky Camp August 26 to replace gates in the fence around the Camp. One lies a few hundred yards south of the camp, the other at the north entrance. Both were the standard metal gate too narrow for pack stock. Weather cooperated with moderate temperatures and only light sprinkles in the evening area is quite lush following summer rains, which were very much in evidence with distant showers visible against the mountains through event.

Joe and Shawn arrived the afternoon before to get a jump on preparations. They removed the fence wire and dug the south gate out of gold-bearing gravel; no nugget finds were reported. The twelve bags of concrete mix were stacked under the tarp at the site. It is fun to imagine the effort the miners went to in the hydraulic mining scheme hatched here long ago. All looks quite peaceful now. Check out the Friends of Kentucky Camp website for the full story. The full crew arrived by 8 on the 26th. Patrick with the FS was there and gave the briefing; then everyone turned to. The south gate was tackled first. Rob and Michele drove right to the site with the gates, the holes saw with the aid of the electric jack hammer and the new gate was soon cemented in. This was the crew's eighth gate installation so the process is getting pretty smooth. By 10:30 the first gate was standing tall, wires and signs reattached, the obligatory group photos taken and attention turned to the north one — a bit more of a challenge.

The north gate was part of the vehicle gate latch system so placement had to be exact. Soil up on the hillside was more rock and semi-cemented cobble, making the digging a little slower. Also, a platform had to be leveled in the slope to allow the gate to swing open. But the holes were finished, the gate muscled into place and the cement poured. Mixing the cement on the tarp goes quite well, especially with extra help to handle the water and bags. Rob had his welder along so he fabricated the latch mechanism with sleeves through the post to allow the vehicle gate latch to work on the new post. He also shortened the padlock chain and welded it to the post so it doesn't inadvertently get wrapped around the pedestrian gate or get lost. The Kentucky Camp sign was placed into an existing metal fence post removing one more post and helping to de-clutter the site.

Gate number two for the day was soon finished, the tools sorted and loaded (mostly) into the appropriate vehicles. It was lunch time and everyone gathered on the porch; what a lovely lunch spot. The Friends of Kentucky Camp, represented on the project by President Mar Doumas, and John Weiss, were on hand to help — thank you guys! — and to bring drinks and ice cream. The burritos were distributed, drinks were in the cooler and the trail chat and tall tales began. Mark told his story of finding and refurbishing one of the hydraulic nozzles used in the mining process here at the camp — quite a tale. See the website [kentuckycamp.org](http://kentuckycamp.org) for more information.

A special thank you goes to Michele Bauer for taking the photos for the day. These photos are a key component of telling the AZT story of fundraising, as well as valued mementoes of a fun and productive day. Thanks to the rest of the crew — Rob, Bernie, Lee, Tom, Mark, Patrick, Joe and Shawn.

You can view all of Michele's pictures [here](#).



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

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## Passage 8 - Rincon Valley August 19, 2014

### Pistol Hill Gate Installation

As part of ATA's effort to improve the trail for all users we are replacing the narrow gates that frustrate pack animal traffic with the wic sturdy ATV-filter super gates. These sturdy structures resolve gate problems for all time (well all of our time anyway) and present a favorable message as to the permanence and commitment of the ATA and the Arizona Trail. The attractive steel emblem is quickly becoming a recognized AZT brand. They are placed in the more visible locations where gates are needed for any number of reasons.

Pistol Hill Road crossing was one such gate — high visibility location, high potential for ATV problems, and the existing gate was an unmess of posts, wires, gates, panels and junk, all far beyond its useful life.

The usual suspects gathered early August 19, betting on a favorable weather forecast, to install the new gate. Shawn came from Phoenix picked up the gate and the super tools up on the way, and arrived shortly after the southern contingent had begun removing the old gate. This location has seen many iterations of gate as evidenced by the remains of several of them. Some of these were salvaged and incorporated into the new version.

Tom, David, Bernie and Lee had the wires off and one of the old railroad tie posts out; this was reinstalled to strengthen the sagging corner post near the new gate. The electric jack hammer makes digging the 30 inch post holes much more manageable in the unyielding Arizona soil. The crew took turns between the hammer, shovels and tuna can dippers and soon the holes were ready. All hands muscled it off the tarp and into the holes. Two by fours and clamps tried it up and twelve bags of premix concrete—over 700 pounds—were mixed on the tarp and poured around the posts. A gate cannot be overbuilt.

The adjoining fence was quickly connected to the new gate; the new corner post set and attached to hold up the old one; the fence panel in place; and a new latch welded on for the stock gate. This will allow the gate to be padlocked to prevent ATV abuse. Having field welding capability — thank you Rob — makes for a very well finished installation.

Mark brought lunch for the group from Valeria's in the AZT Gateway Community of Vail — a very welcome treat as temps rose and rain threatened. They really hit the spot after a few hours of digging, lifting and pulling. A two for one installation at Kentucky Camp is up for

Thanks to Rob, Lee, Bernie, David and Tom!



Everyone stays busy



Removing the old structures



Make it straight and level



Thank you Rob, Lee, Bernie, David and Tom!



All finished



Come on through

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## Passage 33 - Flagstaff August 16, 2014

Flagstaff Biking Organization sponsored a Trail Day on the AZNST August 14th Thank you to the 40+ volunteers who spent their Saturday morning building some monster drains on Rocky Ridge Trail! Check out the work on your next time out on this segment. We think you'll love it.

Thanks also to Aspen Sports Snow and Skate, Biff's Bagels and KickStandKafe for helping get all these folks out, amped up and fed!



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## Passage 26 - Hardscrabble Mesa August 5, 2014

A recent hike along the passage revealed several decaying signs and the need for more. Over the past year or so a few ATA folks have been working on replacement redwood signs for the Coconino Rim passage, so a few more for the Hardscrabble Mesa passage were added to the project. Dave Seigal started the project, constructing — from scratch — signs that were placed near Moqui Stage Station last fall. (See August 24, 2013 event report.) The signs for this effort were made by Gary Hohner, with assistance from Shawn Redfield and John Ma

The signs are made of 2x6 redwood planks, with the lettering routed in and painted, all covered with several sturdy finish coats to protect them from the AZ elements. One large sign went at the western junction of the AZT and FR 194; a small sign was placed at the eastern junction where the trail heads southeast, and several of the deteriorating fiberglass sign posts under the powerline were replaced.

The "road" under the powerline is barely a road but it has been marginally maintained, likely by the power company. The ATA Toyota pickup itself to be quite the rock crawler as we made our way south to install the carsonites. On the slow crawl back to FR 194 we were treated

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# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

brief but spectacular wildlife show.

Thanks to Joe, Gary and Shawn.



**Some assembly required**



**Looking towards Utah**



**At the western junction with FR 194**



**AZT sign, lite**



**Fresh and new**



**Critters!**

## Passage 30 - Mormon Lake July 19, 2014

The Arizona Trail Association has a tradition of cooperative efforts; the incredible success of this weekend is one more example. Sponsored by the ATA and the Flagstaff Ranger District, dedicated ATA volunteers were joined by a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers from the four Arizona REI stores. For years there has been a desire for access to the Arizona Trail from the Lakeview Campground. The necessary road up a steep and rocky hill which makes the new trail construction work challenging. Under the leadership of trail stewards Mel and Mark Betani and Scott Harper, the synergistic team effort met the challenge and well exceeded the construction goal for the weekend. The result was the completion of a majority of the connector trail on this challenging site. The sense of accomplishment was great!

To appreciate the difficulty of the work, the connector trail rises from the Lakeview Campground up and over the top of a limestone bluff. Sean Murphy of the Flagstaff Ranger District began the event with important safety reminders for this steep and rocky slope. Common tools needed for the trail construction were picks and rock bars accompanied with an awareness of who might be working below you. When the Lakeview Connector is completed, it will be about .75 mile in length; weekend workers completed about .45 mile in this difficult terrain was an incredible feat. It was hard work, but the weekend was not all work.

An after-work highlight on Saturday was the photo-op presentation of a generous grant from REI. For more information about ATA trail program projects the REI grant will support plus REI's extensive volunteer efforts, please see page 4 of the ATA's [summer newsletter](#). Special thanks to Joe Impeccoven from REI for recruitment of the REI volunteers and for his chef talents with chili. Also special thanks to volunteer Gina Mathews for her photography work. Volunteers derive a personal reward of accomplishment when they help build and maintain the Arizona Trail, but generous raffle prizes and t-shirts provided by REI were a welcome bonus.

Another bonus of the successful weekend was the yummy pot luck. Old friends and new friends enjoyed the camaraderie and became energized for Sunday morning's trail work. It is amazing how much fun you can have getting dirty. Thanks to each and every volunteer for the continuing support of the Flagstaff Ranger District, and special thanks for the boost from the numerous REI volunteers. Trail users will be grateful for your hard work. We look forward to the completion of the Lakeview Connector.

Many thanks to Gina Mathews, Joe Impeccoven and Mel Betani for the below photos.

Submitted by Gay Hohner



**Safety first! Volunteers receive instructions.**  
photo by mb



**Hi Ho! Picks and rock bars are necessary tools.**  
photo by mb



**Rock stars.**  
photo by ji



**REI volunteers.**  
photo by ji



**Incredible rock obstacles.**  
photo by gm



**Teamwork. A trail begins to appear.**  
photo by gm



**Before.**  
photo by mb



**After. Volunteers, take a bow!**  
photo by mb



**Bernie Stallman on behalf of ATA accepts generous grant from REI.**  
photo by gm



**Grateful volunteers. Summer newsletter features about this wonderful grant.**  
photo by gm

## Passage 4 - Temporal Gulch July 10, 2014



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

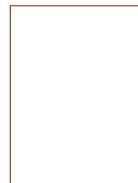
One of the many unique features of the AZT is the diversity of the trail signs along the route. A previous generation of signs on the Coronado National Forest features lettering shaped by a cutting torch in heavy steel plate. The sign at the Walker Basin TH, 13 miles north of Patagonia, was one such sign but unfortunately it was so heavily damaged by rifle fire that it was largely illegible. A short crew assembled today to replace it with one of the Reuleaux triangle trail signs that AZT-friendly metal artist Rob Bauer designs and fabricates.

The big question was whether the road to Walker Basin was navigable. Long stretches of driving in the stream had proven intimidating in previous attempts, but today the 4-Runner was the star, and we managed with only a few white-knuckle moments.

The crew quickly dispatched the old sign with a bit of digging and a tug from the Toyota. The new sign was planted in one of the old sign holes, the concrete mixed and poured, the sign leveled and straightened, and the ground around it smoothed and contoured.

Everyone had a quick lunch while the concrete set, then we took the requisite photos, loaded the tools and were on our way. The monsoon rain threatened but didn't materialize. Somehow the sketchy road was much better on the way out than on the way in.

Thanks to Rob, Tom, Lee and Shawn.



## Passage 40 - Kaibab Plateau South June 9-13, 2014

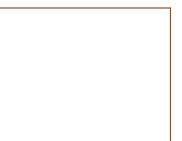
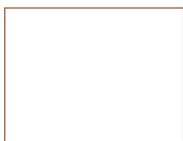
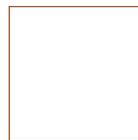
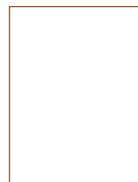
The South Kaibab work event had 2 main issues to address this year, the usual deadfall and how much damage to the trail from erosion had scouted the trail previous to our arrival and recorded the locations of deadfall. Last years event had highlighted 1 main location which required further erosion control. Our group though small in number had the expertise and background to remedy those 2 issues which always haunt our segment

The equine contingent arrived on Friday, June 6, to establish the camp site. Brenda Busboom had last been to the north rim in 2006 w our work group was run out by the warm fire and the smoke was so thick it was hard to distinguish between day and night. We rode a scouting foray and found to our surprise the first half of our segment had been cleared. Thus allowing one half mile of the previous years erosion area to receive full concentration on Monday. When all arrived the plans were formulated for the remainder of the week. There numerous size variations of deadfall from minor to massive. A second area of erosion was slated for evaluation and subsequent execution of the plan. Two more days dedicated to deadfall. With 1 day the group split in half to accomplish both goals.

The frustration is the log jumps made over an existing piece of deadfall which creates more effort and time being expended to remove extra logs drug in before the work group can get to the original tree. The air was a bit bluer by the time the main obstruction was reached.

The best part is the knowledge Liz and I have obtained from our group of experts dedicated to keeping the trail sustainable and clear. Thanks to Dan Shein, Joe Longtham, and Tom Kimmel. Also we all extend our thanks to Rick who was our support crew.

The group: Lynn, Liz, Brenda, Dan, Joe, Tom, Rick, Dreamer and Cher.



## Passage 23 - Mazatzal Divide



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

## May 14, 2014

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, an ATA crew made a quick trip to the Mt. Peeley trailhead to install another connector signs. These just look better every time one goes in. The trip was originally planned for last fall but winter set in and the road became more of a risk than the project warranted so it was postponed. Today was the day.

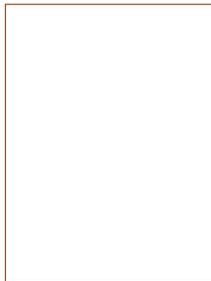
The initial group of three sounded a little light for hauling the sign, tools, premix and water half a mile in to the connection spot, so Joe put out a call for more help. We wound up being eight, plenty for the task.

FR 201, often a challenge, was in excellent condition so the trip into the TH went smoothly. The cement mix, water and tools went into wheel barrow, and the crew split up the digging tools and sign and off we went. Getting the wheel barrow up the hills took a bit of doing a rope on the front allowed for double the horsepower, and we were soon at the trail junction.

The crew split in two, with four digging the hole for the steel connector sign while four attended to the two burned carsonite signs just the trail both directions from the junction. The old carsonites, reduced to a very strange looking shock of fiberglass "hair" by the fire, were dug out and new ones installed.

The slide hammer digging bar worked wonders for the steel sign installation. Rock near the surface soon gave way, and with strong arms and some patience, the hole was soon deep enough. Joe and Shawn mixed up the concrete, John handled the water works, and the rest of the group supervised, making sure the sign was pointed in the right direction and standing straight.

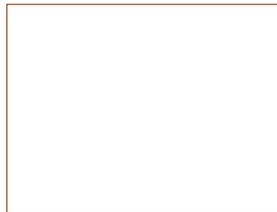
Another great day on the AZT! Thanks to Gary, John, Joe, Mike, Don, Shawn, Mark and Sue.



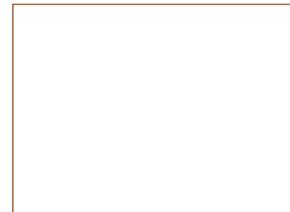
Getting started.



Carsonite duty.



This is how it has to be . . . .



All done, standing tall.

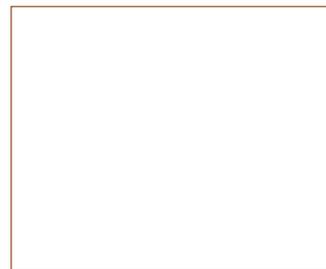
## Passage 18 - Reavis Canyon May 3, 2014

We had a great turnout for the Arizona Trail Reavis 18b work day. A total of 16 volunteers came out and tackled some catclaw. We worked on a 2.5 mile section of the mountain, divided up into three teams to conquer 0.8 miles each and at days end 180 hours was contributed (this includes drive time). I want to give each volunteer special thanks by listing each one of them by first name: John (1), John (2), Shawn, Kenneth, Scott, Zach, Jeff, Jill, Sheldon, Dylan, Lance, Tara, Ryan, Steve, and Paul. Without these individuals coming out and giving their time it would not have been possible. I also want to thank MBAA and their members that came out to help also. They are one of our user groups and it was good to see them out on the trail giving back.

As I was hiking back from the bottom reviewing what had been accomplished I was amazed at each teams work. The catclaw was cut back, grubbed, and you could see a trail. The whole 2.5 miles is in much better shape than it was when we arrived. I only have one photo to present and due to I forgot to take pictures in the day for focused on the work at hand. You'll have to believe me you could not see the trail before hand it was like a jungle, but this is what it looked like when it was cleared and grubbed.

Again I want to say thank you to all that came out and helped.

Craig Gregory



## Passage 22 - Saddle Mountain April 23-24, 2014

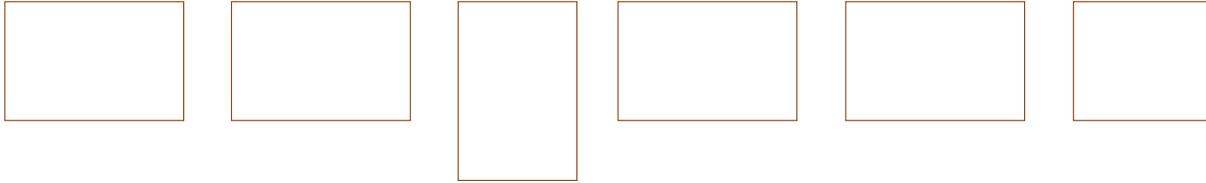
Wednesday preparation started to reroute a portion of Arizona Trail away from the deeply eroded section north of McFarland Canyon approaching Thicket Spring. The trail will reroute to old existing trails 260 and Cornucopia trail. Most of these two trails are still visible in need of a lot of work.

Matt Roberts and Shawn Redfield were out there Wednesday to flag a short reroute of 260 around some erosion and a steep climb. The para archs Elizabeth, Mark, Sue and Tom were out there combing the corridor for any signs of archeology and found none. Everyone was pleased to see the regrowth of vegetation after the 2012 Sunflower fire.

Lucky Dog



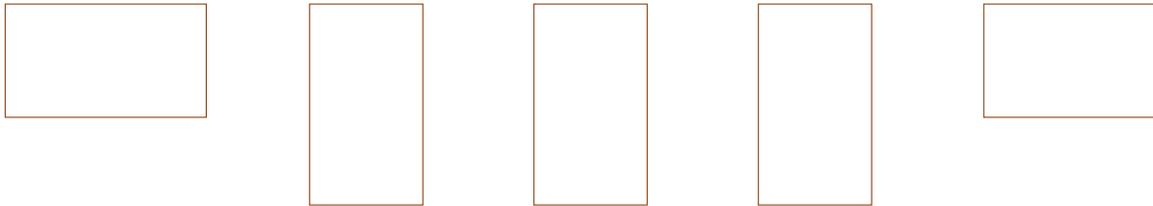
# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014



## Passage 16 - Gila River Canyons April 17, 2014

The usual suspects, Lee Allen, Tom Kimmel, and David Rabb, plus Lionel Diaz, John Matteson, Dick Wertz and Fred Gaudet joined the team of Francisco, Al and two SCC to install a large kiosk sign at the start of the Red Mountain – Ajax Mountain segment as the trail left Rincon Road onto single track. After a slow two hour drive on Battle Axe and Rincon Roads, the crew went quickly to work digging holes for the kiosk. An inspection of the Red Mountain Seep showed water still to the top of the monitoring bucket. Three mountain bikers on the way to Utah stopped for a chat and a quick rest.

Even with a hydraulic jackhammer, the digging was slow thru the caliche. While some dug others assembled the kiosk. Finally in the early afternoon with temperatures in the low 90s, the holes were deep enough, the kiosk raised, cement mixed, and finishing touches completed. A great day, especially since the drive back to the highway took about half the time as going in.



## Passage 7 - Las Cienegas April 9, 2014

The ATA is seeking financial support from equestrian groups to help replace the narrow gates with wider ones so packers do not have to remove packs to pass through the many gates. Super-gate number 5 now enhances the AZT—Old Sonoita Road crossing. Lee, Tom, Rick, John and Shawn made quick work of removing the narrow gate and planting the equestrian packer-friendly one. The old gate—sturdy but narrow for pack animals—will be widened and installed in another location.

Rob brought a generator and electric jack hammer which made it almost too easy. We learn a little on each one, so with some luck on good conditions, they go in pretty quickly. It was a productive outing on a beautiful sunny day, but by noon the temperature was hinting at what was to come, so everyone was happy to have the job wrapped up and we adjourned to Montgomery's in the Gateway Community Vail for lunch and trail talk.



Removing the old gate.

Digging the holes for the new one.

All finished.

## Santa Catalina Mountains & Oracle Ridge April 4-6, 2014

A crew of 9 people met at the Sabino Canyon employee parking lot at 10 AM on April 4, 2014 for a 3 day backpack work event on the AZT in the Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. The event had been coordinated with Gregg Sasek of the USFS. Gregg had arranged for us to leave two "pick-up" vehicles at stop 8 in Sabino Canyon so that we could get back to the employee parking lot upon completion of the event. These cars were dropped off on 4/3 by Shawn Redfield, Lee Allen, Jan Allen, Lauren Rabb and David Rabb.



The crew consisted of: Lee Allen, Shawn Redfield, Rick Mick, Doug Siegel, Jackie Marcus, Chris Michalowski, Scott Casterlin, Kevin Coyle and David Rabb (Segment Steward for passage 12a). We were driven to the trailhead at Marshall Gulch by Tom Kimmel, Jan Allen and Lauren Rabb arriving a little before noon. A safety briefing was given by Shawn Redfield and then we hit the trail. We worked our way about 4.5 miles to our



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

first night's camp near the last water source along the trail. Along the way we removed 14 trees from across the trail and did some light brushing.

Saturday, the crew hit the trail with incredible passion. We removed another 17 trees from passage 12a and 3 from the west end of passage 11. In addition, they undid two unauthorized reroutes, fixed one bad stretch of tread and brushed mostly scrub oak from about 2 miles of trail from camp to Romero Pass. However, the most impressive accomplishment was the grubbing out of every thorny bush, mostly Ceanothus, along that same 2 miles of trail. Nobody counted but we likely grubbed out over 500 plants that were impinging on the trail.

We arrived at Romero Pass about 4 PM and proceeded a couple of miles to camp at the junction of passage 11 (West Fork Trail) and the Cathedral Rock Trail. Sunday we hiked out to Sabino Canyon where we had our two vehicles waiting at stop 8. Along the way we removed another 12 trees from passage 11. We reached the employee parking lot at about 12:30 PM and headed for home.

Total trees removed: 46  
Total miles covered: 15

There were no injuries and the only casualties were one pick-mattock where the mattock broke off and a couple of hand saws that gave out. Overall, this was an amazingly successful event thanks to the hard work of the 8 volunteers that joined me. We accomplished everything that I wanted and way more than I expected. Thanks a million to my volunteers.

David Rabb

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## Elden Mountain March 22, 2014

"Wow, my first day on the job at REI and I get to go out and work on the Arizona Trail" bragged Chris, one of new hires for the soon-to-open Flagstaff store. Chris, along with 42 others from REI, a team of six from American Conservation Experience (ACE), Sean Murphy from the Flagstaff Ranger District, USFS and Bruce Belman, Arizona Trail Steward, spent the morning of March 22 working on a section of the A.T. at Flagstaff. The event was initiated by REI Flagstaff store manager Laura Thompson as a way to start her new team members working to and to instill in them one of REI's core values, stewardship.

The REI group divided up into work-crews based on areas of expertise within the store and each crew was led by an ACE member. The work involved rebuilding a number of rolling drains, creating "nicks" to the trail berm to drain standing water and filling of several areas was out in last year's Monsoon storms. One group even became quite "expert" in moving rocks when they took on the task of building a seep trap in a deeply eroded stream channel.

Beginning the day with the usual safety talk, Sean Murphy, who is Trails and Wilderness Coordinator for the FS emphasized three goals for the morning: Be Safe; Have Fun; Do Good Work. It was apparent by lunch that all three had been met. Some blisters, yes and probably a sore shoulder or two but nobody needed anything more than a band-aid. The laughs were infectious, with comments over and over about how much participants had enjoyed both the work and the comradeship. Repairing the Sandy Seep Trail portion of the AT (which is in need of much love) has been long term goal of the local AT steward and this day's contribution was, indeed, Good Work!

Thank You REI.

To view some photos of this event, click on this [Facebook page](#).

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## Steward Training March 22-23, 2014

Twenty-five AZT fans including current and potential Segment Stewards gathered in Summerhaven, AZ, on March 22 for trail training. Welcome Moira Alexander as co-steward of Passage 10, Craig Gregory on 18b and Chris Wheeler and Nick Johnson on 22a!

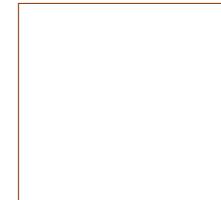
Mark Flint, ATA Regional Steward, and Matt Roberts of American Conservation Experience, and Bernie "Trail Dog" Stahlman provided the expertise. Basic trail concepts were covered in the Summerhaven Community Center, followed by a field exercise on the trail. Mark has designed a fully-sustainable trail in Summerhaven that is an excellent laboratory for trail construction and maintenance concepts.

Following lunch the group convened at ATA-member Leigh Anne Thrasher's cabin. Thank you Leigh Anne! John Rendall and Andrea Michaels gave presentations on ATA steward duties. Zac Ribbing, Coronado N.F. Border Zone, enlightened the group on working with the land management agencies and explained the behind-the-scenes challenges and intricacies of trail administration on public lands. Laura White, Arizona Trail Administrator, explained the finer points of being a National Scenic Trail, and some trail history.

Sunday morning the group convened at Colossal Cave Mountain Park where safety, tools and trails were the topics of the day. The new stewards learned what resources are in the trailers as well as tool use and safety. Mark, Matt and Bernie then took smaller groups out on the Arizona Trail for instruction and discussion on how to recognize maintenance needs, plan trail work and make field notes and a work plan. While the groups were working, through-hiker "Joe" came through on his way to UT. He was doing 20-mile days and was in too much of a rush to hang around and join the group for lunch. How fortunate to see the results of our trail work being appreciated.



Following the trail exercise group enjoyed lunch and a trail talk at the Community Center.



Leigh Anne took us in after



# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

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Discussion and networking continued over lunch served by the folks at the park. Everyone headed home by 2:00 PM.

**scheduling snafu with the Community Center.**

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## Passage 16 - Gila River Canyons March 18, 2014

Lee Allen, Tom Kimmel and Fred Gaudet meet at Florence and drove to Cochran in order to cross the Gila River to check on Red Mt Seep. They do some minor water erosion correction as well as check out the coke ovens. Alas, sometimes the best of plans get waylaid. The Gila h more than doubled since the work event in February—it was now more than waist high. All of us decided to stay dry. In order to accomplish something, the crew widened and increased the height of the green tunnel back to the railroad track. Maybe next time . . .

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## Passage 6 - Las Colinas March 8, 2014

Trail work day today was a success! There were 14 runners who came down to the AZT to do some light maintenance. We had everyone from young high school students to seasoned ultra runners. Barrel cacti were moved and replanted, Ocotillo branches were cut down to keep horses/bikers/runners safe and many a rock was removed from the trail.

After trail work, we all enjoyed a delicious lunch from Beyond Bread. The weather was wonderful and it was great to get to know our fellow runners a bit better.

Thank you to everyone for making this happen, it was great to give back to the trails that I use so often. We also had some exciting discussion about future trail work ideas, so stay tuned for more information!

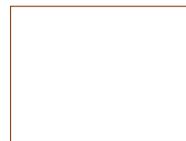
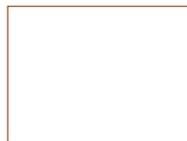
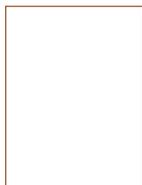


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## Passage 9 - Rincon Mountains March 7-9, 2014

On March 7-9 the Arizona Trail Association hosted a work event in the Rincon Mountains passage in Saguaro National Park. We had four awesome people show up to help out. It is safe to say, that we all had an awesome time and we learned a lot. Experienced trail maintainers were there to help out first timers. Nights around the campfire were filled with trail stories and fun times.

If you are interested in a work event please check out the [events calendar](#). Your help will be appreciated!



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## Passage 16 - Gila River Canyons February 10, 2014

Lee Allen and Tom Kimmel, driving up from the Tucson area, meet Lionel Diaz, John Matteson, David Babcock and Fred Gaudet from the Phoenix metro area. At Cochran, all waded the knee-deep Gila River and walked over to where the AZT meets the Rincon Road. Red Mountain Seep, about 1/3 mile up an adjoining wash, was flowing almost to the wash. The crew cleared brush, built cairns, made a pair of steps up to the monitoring bucket that was filled with water. Since there has been no rain in the area since December, Red Mountain Seep may be a fairly reliable source of water.

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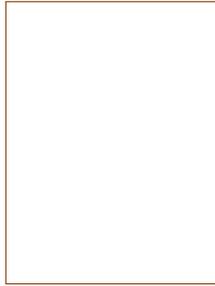


# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

The crew then skillfully attacked half dozen or so chollas that were shedding onto the trail. They also did some rockwork to catch water running off the trail to stop future erosion. Following a quick lunch, the group headed on the road on the north side of the Gila towards coke ovens. After following the lower road to a dead end, and tromping through the bosque, they turned around at a cliff that met the trail. They went back to the Cochran crossing and drove the vehicles to a large 'parking' area directly east of the coke ovens. After wandering around for another hour and not finding any path, cow or otherwise, on the west side of the Gila to the coke ovens, they gave up and returned to the vehicles. From the trucks quads could be seen driving past the coke ovens. Obviously the road that went up high and to the right was the only way for us to reach the ovens; that was the road we did not take. Perhaps next time.



**Lee, Tom, Lionel, John and David on the path to the seep**



**Fred at the monitoring bucket**



**The crew working on an erosion problem**

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## Passage 5 - Santa Rita Mountains January 11, 2014

The Usual Suspects—plus several more—started 2014 with a two-for-one gate special. Two of the uber-gates were installed at the Box Canyon Road crossing to replace the ones that were too narrow for pack stock. An effort is underway to improve the AZT for equestrian and the narrow gates that force loading and unloading are the first priority.

Saturday was picked to allow some working folks to join in, and the strategy worked with 15 attendees. The Arizona sun quickly moderated the cool morning temps and soon everyone was in their shirtsleeves. Robert Grey from NM won the long distance award. Robert is a Continental Divide Trail volunteer who travels to AZ often and decided to join in! Welcome!

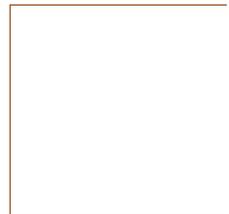
By chance the work event coincided with the Beyond Tucson AZT events, one of which was a bike ride that started at Box Canyon Road gate builder—artist/welder Rob Bauer and his wife Michele were in the ride, and stopped to see how things were going. Many other riders passed by, as well as several sets of hikers. Who knew Box Canyon was such a busy spot.

When everyone had arrived, ATA-legend Laddie Cox gave the safety talk. While everyone present has been doing trail work for years, it is always good to be reminded to work safely, especially when working as close as this task requires. The old gates had been set in concrete and digging them out took some time and effort. The hand-powered jack hammers proved invaluable. The road crossing is in a meadow with deep soft soil, so once the old ones were out, the new ones went in quite quickly. The intent is that these gates resolve gate issues all time, and look good while doing it. They are made of 4-inch tube steel, anchored by six-hundred pounds of concrete and sport an attractive AZT emblem of the distinctive National Scenic Trail Reuleaux triangle shape. The one-hand latches are equestrian-friendly.

Mel and Marlene Betani, ATA Stewards on Passage 30e, brought clamps and rigging to hold the heavy gates level while pouring the concrete. There are always new tricks to learn and this will be added to the toolbox. Soon the gates were standing straight and tall, signs replaced, re-hung, the disturbed soil smoothed or scattered and the requisite group photo taken. A few stalwarts hung around to enjoy lunch and conversation and then load up the trailer and head home.

This was a particularly enjoyable event with immediate visible results and several new faces and some old familiar ones. We often hear "The Arizona Trail connects mountain ranges, canyons, deserts, forests, wilderness areas, historic sites, trail systems, points of interest, communities and people." Today it did especially well with the people connection. Thank you everyone!

Shawn Redfield





# TRAILWORK EVENT ARCHIVE - 2014

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