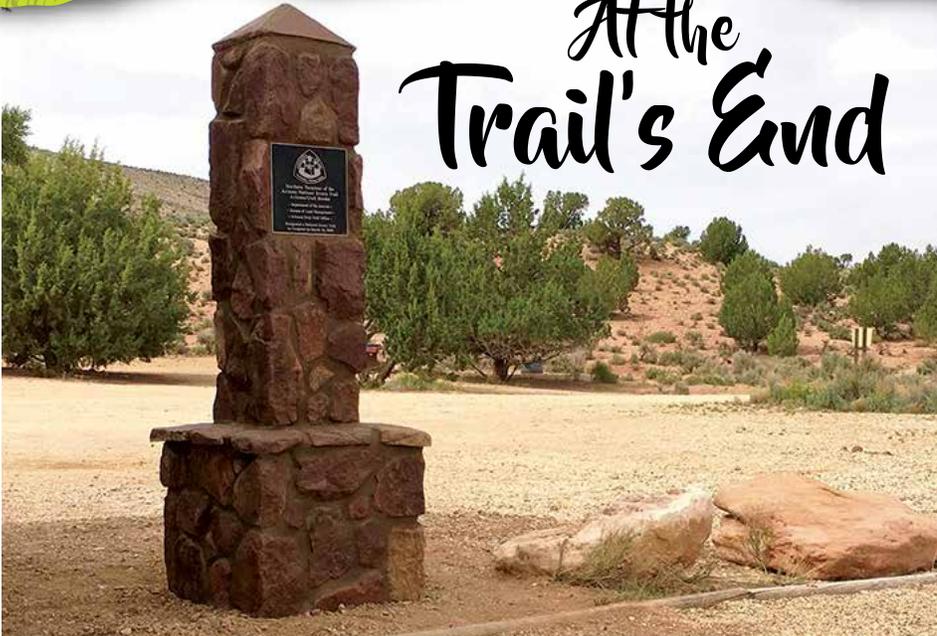




Arizona Trail News

News and Information from the Arizona Trail Association

Spring 2018 | Volume 26, No. 1



A new sandstone monument commemorates the northern terminus of the Arizona National Scenic Trail at the Arizona/Utah border. *Paul Ostapuk Photo*

At the Trail's End

by Matthew J. Nelson

two plaques on the stone obelisk. One plaque recognizes the northern terminus and the fact that the AZT was designated a National Scenic Trail by Congress on March 30, 2009. The other plaque features the poem *The Arizona Trail*, by Dale Shewalter.

They completed the project on Sunday, May 6 just in time to see a northbound thru-hiker finish his 800-mile journey. No doubt this will soon be among the most photographed features along the entire AZT. And for anyone who has completed the trail before now, it's worth a return trip...if only to get the photo that has been missing from your collection. While you're there, consider exploring some of the natural wonders nearby – Coyote Buttes, The Wave, Buckskin Gulch, Paria Canyon and Vermillion Cliffs. The end of the Arizona Trail marks the beginning of other grand adventures.

This project was made possible through support from the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Trail Association members, donors and volunteers.

The Arizona Trail's most photographed features include the Grand Canyon, Picketpost Mountain, saguaro cacti, sunsets, and Border Monument 102 at the southern terminus of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. For thru-hikers, the historic monument on the U.S./Mexico border marks the beginning of a long journey ahead or the accomplishment of a lifetime. No photo log is complete without an individual standing next to the shining obelisk along the borderlands.

Conversely, the Stateline Trailhead at the Arizona/Utah border has been lacking an official monument announcing the "end of the Arizona Trail." There's a campground and a trailhead register, but all of America's completed long-distance trails have southern and northern terminus markers. And as of May 6, so does the AZT!

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) started consulting with the Arizona Strip Office of the Bureau of Land Management last

year for permission to construct a northern terminus monument. The idea was to match the dimensions of Border Monument 102, and the BLM suggested natural stone construction to match the surrounding landscape. That's when the ATA contacted Carlos Rodriguez of RB Stonework, a fifth generation stone mason from Payson who has created stone benches at the Pine and Freeman Road Trailheads.

Working with photographs of the southern terminus marker and landscape images from the Buckskin Mountain Passage, Carlos collected and cut piece of sandstone to create an aesthetic and significant marker. Although he had planned to head north for the project during the winter, low temperatures and eventually rainstorms prevented him from pouring concrete and accessing this extremely remote location.

So on Saturday, May 5, Carlos and his crew met with Passage 43 Trail Steward Paul Ostapuk at the Stateline Campground to construct an official monument. The project took two days, and included installation of



Paul Ostapuk (left) and Carlos Rodriguez celebrate the completion of the northern terminus monument on May 6, 2018. *ATA Photo*

Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

It has been an exciting 2018 and it's difficult to believe that we're already saying goodbye to Spring and heading into Summer. With the driest winter on record now behind us, we're hopeful a wet summer will replenish natural water sources along the AZT and help the thirsty landscape recover. We've been preparing for the possibility of forest closures over the past few months, and even though we have nearly a hundred volunteer trail work days planned this coming season it's evident our plans are about to change.

As inconvenient as forest closures may be, they are insignificant when compared to the impacts of catastrophic wildfires. If you've lived in the Southwest long enough you're familiar with what happens when monster fires consume the landscape. Rodeo-Chediski, Schultz, Wallow...even hearing the names of these epic fires open up scars for those of us who watched them desecrate some of our most treasured resources. So as much as we would love to encourage you to head for the high elevation forests of northern Arizona this summer, chances are they're going to be off-limits to all visitors until it starts raining again and the possibility of an abandoned campfire doesn't lead to absolute destruction.

We've got some very ambitious goals for 2018, and with your support the Arizona Trail Association is undertaking some large-scale trail improvement projects, including:

- Happy Jack Singletrack – replacing dirt roads on the Coconino National Forest with 18 miles of singletrack
- Spring Restoration – rehabilitating two springs in the Mazatzal Mountains for the benefit of trail users and wildlife
- Canelo Hills Re-routes – replacing dirt roads and arroyos on the Coronado National Forest with singletrack
- Trailhead Development – opening a trailhead in Oak Tree Canyon near the Santa Rita Mountains
- Rainwater Collector – fabricating and installing a rainwater collection system in a remote locale of the AZT where no natural water source exists
- Babbitt Ranch Singletrack – replacing dirt roads on the Babbitt Ranch Passage with singletrack

We'll update you on progress with each of these projects over the next few months. Please try to make time to volunteer so you can help build new segments of trail and naturalize areas that are being removed from the AZT system. The Arizona Trail gets better all the time thanks to volunteers, donors and business partners like you.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, the landmark legislation that recognized the importance of long-distance scenic and historic trails. We're doing a lot to celebrate this milestone, including the AZT in a Day challenge. Please help us hike, bike or ride the entire length of the Arizona Trail in one day on Saturday, October 6. More information is available on page 4, and also at aztrail.org/events/50th-anniversary-events/

Despite the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, we're continuing to see a reduction in financial support from our federal partners. Our challenge cost share funding from the US Forest Service has been reduced by 57%, and it looks like our assistance agreement with the Bureau of Land Management is being cut-off altogether. This will likely mean a 35% reduction in our annual operating budget, unless we can supplement those funds with individual donations, memberships, grants and business partners. Everyone at the ATA is working hard to maintain the great momentum we've been building for the past three decades, but we can't do it without your help. Please consider increasing your contribution this year to help us reach our goals and remain strong as an organization.

Working together we can protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the AZT as a unique encounter with the land.

With sincere appreciation for all you do for the Arizona Trail,



Matthew J. Nelson
Executive Director

Arizona Trail Association

534 N. Stone Ave. | Tucson, Az 85705 | 602-252-4794 | www.aztrail.org

Arizona Trail Association

Our Mission

To protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

Our Vision

A continuous, non-motorized trail traversing 800 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, forests, canyons, communities and people.

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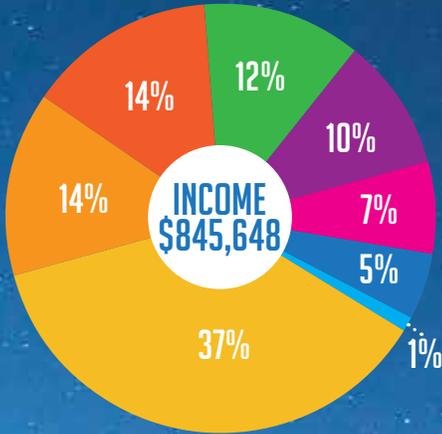
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2017 FINANCIALS



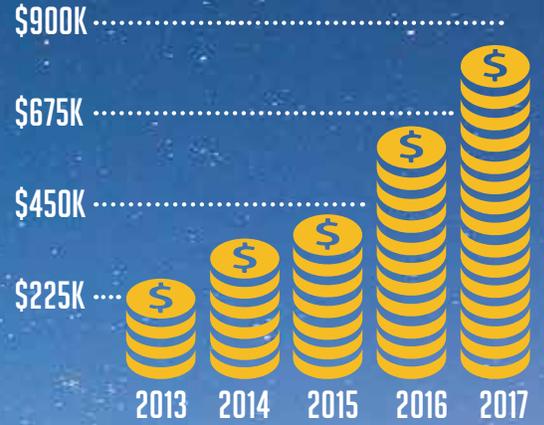
- FEDERAL GRANTS
- GRANTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- BUSINESS PARTNERS & CORPORATE SUPPORT
- MEMBERSHIP
- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- MERCHANDISE
- OTHER



- TRAIL OPERATIONS
- PAYROLL & GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES
- SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
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- FUNDRAISING
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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

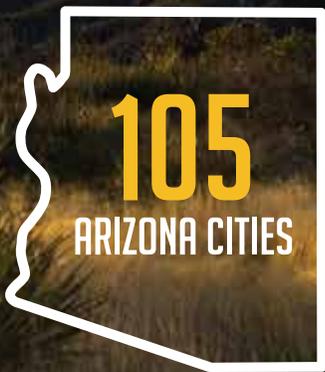
INCOME



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



MEMBERS FROM





Imagine if a single step onto the tread of the AZT could transport you to anywhere along its 800-mile path.

In one instant, you are at the foot of Humphrey's Peak, giggling and building a snowman. Another step brings you to Pine, where your flushed face is grinning from ear to ear as you clink glasses celebrating a day well-done. A third step and you find yourself in the clear dark Sonoran Desert looking up as the stars slowly spin by.

This is what happens to me when I step onto the Arizona Trail. I think about all of the memories I've made along it, and they come at me like a flood, linking me to my past, to other places, and the people I've met along the way.

For me, every trail offers this connection. I am everywhere all at once.

This year we're celebrating these connections with the 50th Anniversary of the National Trail System Act. This groundbreaking Act established a network of trails across the nation to provide people outdoor recreation opportunities, to promote resource preservation, and to encourage the appreciation of America's history, cultural diversity and landscapes. Today, there are 11 National Scenic Trails (including the Arizona Trail), 19 National Historic Trails, and more than 1,200 National Recreation Trails that are a part of this system.

Events are taking place across the country to honor this anniversary. Here in the Grand Canyon State, the Arizona Trail Association has organized a massive undertaking to commemorate the year and link its communities and users. We're calling it **AZT IN A DAY**.

On Saturday October 6, hikers, runners, mountain bikers and equestrians will be staged throughout Arizona along the AZT ready to complete its entire length, over 800 miles, in one day. There are nearly 100 sections ranging from 2.1 to 13.8 miles in length. Each participant will have the full 24 hours to cover their portion of trail. In remote areas, section lengths may be longer or require one or two overnights to have everyone staged appropriately.

As a community, we will be everywhere on the AZT all at once. If we are successful, this will be the first time a National Scenic Trail has been completed like this.

People of all ages and abilities are invited to participate, and registration is free. You can find more information on our website: aztrail.org/events/50th-anniversary-events/azt-in-a-day/

Check back for information about after-parties in gateway communities, and other ways to enjoy the day.

We are already underway and have around 60% of the trail covered with signups for

October 6th. Come join us, connect, and be a part of history.

Imagine thousands of people, all at once, making memories on a trail that connects us all.

Looking for more ways to celebrate the 50th? Complete the **50 for 50 Challenge**. The ATA is challenging hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to enjoy at least 50 miles of the Arizona National Scenic Trail during 2018. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a commemorative 50th Anniversary Patch at the end of the year. Learn more and report your success here: aztrail.org/events/50th-anniversary-events/50-for-50/



Karrie Kressler is currently working as an intern for the Arizona Trail Association. She has successfully completed the length of the Arizona, Pacific Crest and Appalachian National Scenic Trails, and works as a Wilderness Ranger each summer for the US Forest Service.



Volunteer Spotlight Terry Higbee

by Wendy Lotze

Imagine that you've just put in a tough day digging out prickly pear and catclaw along the Arizona Trail through the Superstition Mountains. It was hot and dirty and windy and the hike back was long and uphill. Would it make your day seem better knowing that there was a hot meal back at camp – including a fresh loaf of Dutch oven bread – served up with a huge smile?

Volunteers who've worked events where Terry Higbee was the camp host know the answer to this question is an emphatic "yes!" And for Terry, the real joy of working on the AZT comes from striving to be the best camp hostess in Arizona.

Terry started volunteering with the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) in 2016 when she retired from direct care as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. She always had a passion for the outdoors – she and her husband even met on a cross-country cycling trip – and she wanted to get back to more of the "rough and tumble" kinds of activities. Her family's cabin on Mt. Ord practically overlooks the Arizona Trail, and the more she learned about the organization, the more she thought it would be a great way to start spending more time outside. She signed up for a Trail Skills Institute class where she learned not only trail work skills, but also discovered that the ATA desperately needed

volunteer camp hosts. Soon, she was working in the camp kitchen, cooking up meals and providing a welcoming hospitality that is so important to these events. While she'll still don her overalls and leather gloves to pitch in on the trail, her real contribution is in building that camp community for volunteers.

Interestingly, Terry will tell you "I'm not really a kitchen person," at least at home. She finds herself cooking a lot lately, but it's more because she wants to test out recipes to use later at trail events. Left to her own choices, she prefers the sewing machine over the stove top, creating fun projects that frequently involve recycled materials, custom patterns, and creative techniques. Some of her creations even make their way into the camp, like AZT branded coffee pot cozies.

Like many volunteers, Terry has found that the best part of working on the Arizona Trail are the people. She has found individuals who share her passion for the outdoors and for Arizona, and enjoys being part of a community that allows everyone to contribute in their own unique way. If she had her own superpower, everyone in the world would know the incredible value of Mother Nature and nurture the natural world. It may seem a long way off in today's world, but she works toward it one satisfied camper at a time.

Thanks to Terry for her time, efforts and positive energy!

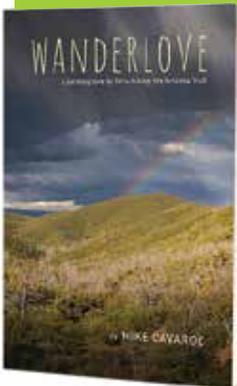


Fresh bread on the trail? Terry Higbee proves there are many ways volunteers can help support the mission of the ATA. ATA Photo



Zach MacDonald (left) and Terry Higbee at a recent trail work event. ATA Photo

If you'd like to learn more about opportunities to put your own unique talents to use on the Arizona Trail, please contact volunteer@aztrail.org or (520) 730-8182.



Wanderlove

Learning Love by Thru-Hiking the Arizona Trail

I was alone. More alone than I could have ever imagined. I was hopelessly alone in an unfamiliar desert.

All I wanted in that moment was to feel loved, but I was completely cut off from the civilized world. This was a new version of loneliness for me. It was so bad I was now getting bored of talking to myself.

I like my solitude when I'm hiking, but this would have tested even the proudest of hermits. My closest friends had become the giant saguaros, large friendly-looking leafless trees with arms appearing to want to eagerly wrap themselves around anyone that will give them a hug. They rise up into the air like an excited friend that hasn't seen you in ages. Except they're covered with a fatal amount of thorns. Hugs to nature in this part of the world are strictly forbidden.

Contact with other humans was frustratingly minimal. Here and there a person would cross my path and I would eagerly step off the trail in the hopes of a quick chat with them. Mountain bikes go by fast though, so a quick "hello" was all I would get out of them. I would sometimes encounter a day-hiker where a friendly and enjoyable conversation would ensue, but I knew that would probably be all the contact I'd get for at least another 24 hours. I couldn't even find much wildlife to say "hi" to.

I was at the start of Passage 16 of 43 along the Arizona Trail, roughly 250 miles into an 800 mile trek across the state of Arizona, a state as unforgiving as the plants themselves. I had settled down for the night along the Gila River outside the town of Kearny when it hit me: loneliness on a level I had never anticipated. What was I doing here? I still had well over 500 miles to walk and I was already feeling hopelessly tested. That didn't include any of the physical aspects that come with such a journey. I had already landed on a boulder knee first, blistered my feet, and ravaged the poor soles into a nearly consistent pain for reasons I hadn't

yet discovered. I was also carrying about 10 pounds of camera gear for personal reasons, the weight of which multiplied with every mile each day. Dangers still yet to be experienced included the infamous rattlesnakes, coral snakes, black rattlesnakes, black bears, black widows, tarantulas, brown recluses, human recluses, drug dealing border crossers, border crossing jaguars, and cougars (not the ones in Scottsdale).

The trail itself passes through nine of Arizona's eleven different biomes, six wilderness areas, four national park service entities, and plenty of restaurants to serve well-made craft beer to weary thru-hikers. It travels over four different sky islands, all increasing in difficulty from south to north, the Black Hills (not to be confused with THE Black Hills), the Tortilla Mountains, the Gila River Canyons, the Superstition Mountains, the Four Peaks, the Mazatzal Mountains, and the Mogollon Rim. After a welcomed break of relatively little elevation change on top of "the Rim," there is then the task of passing down and then up one of the largest gashes in the earth's crust above sea level, the Grand Canyon. Though the Pacific Crest Trail is about three times as long as the Arizona Trail, it's no wonder most people that had done the former said that the latter was much harder. But in addition to the constant and dramatic elevation change, the extra challenge probably also has something to do with how little water there is relative to just about any other long-distance hike on Earth.

In the desert, water is one of those valuable resources that could cause greedy fools to trade their treasures for a few quick sips. The heat on the wrong day can dehydrate the strongest and fittest humans in a matter of hours. It's not an apparent heat though. It's warm, of course. But what sneaks up on people is the misleading dryness of the environment, making 90 degrees feel more like 75. In these deserts, water evaporates so fast that often rain doesn't even make it to the ground, a phenomenon frequently seen called virga. Likewise, the sweat from your body will evaporate so fast you'll confuse the sensation with a pleasant coolness, tricking you into believing that you don't need as much water as you really do. Thus far, at 38 and in the best shape of my life, I was drinking about five liters per day on warm days, and four liters on cooler days. The air of these deserts can be equated most to the inside of an oven.

Needless to say, water is scarce in the desert. So where does a thirsty hiker find water along the Arizona Trail when there's no snow melt or few running creeks? Aside from stagnant pools left from stormy weather, much of the water available to hikers is shared with what is arguably the most destructive animal that could live in the desert: cattle. These slobbering, devolved mockeries of their extinct ancestors are much of the reason a water filter is such a massive requirement on the trail. Admittedly though, I probably would have carried a water filter



This excerpt is from Chapter 1 of Cavaroc's new book, reprinted with permission from the author.

Article and photos by
Mike Cavaroc



regardless. And of course, if it weren't for the cattle, I wouldn't have enough water for the trail.

So then that still begs the question: What the hell was I doing out here? Why did I leave the cozy frigid winter of Jackson Hole, Wyoming to come push my limits through the opposite environment? I suppose I started for the same reason most people do. I like to hike and I like to camp, so why not

put the two together and just live in paradise for two months? Because as everyone who's ever completed a thru-hike will tell you, and as I was in the process of learning, it's not that simple.

Most people put in months of training just to make sure they're up to the physical challenge of burning over 4000 calories per day, sometimes exceeding 5000. Then there's the research that goes into making sure you have

enough food on the trail, which of course leads directly into the typical working class dilemma of available money versus available time. There's figuring out mail drops, researching the right water filter, how much water you want to carry, how much food you want to carry, how much fuel you need for your stove, if you even want a stove, finding lightweight clothes, finding lightweight gear, weighing all your lightweight gear, realizing it's not so lightweight, starting over with new lightweight gear, eliminating standard camping gear that's now considered a luxury, figuring out how to keep any electronics charged, researching solar panels (because that's how you keep electronics charged), and all the other responsibilities necessary to consider before you're even ready to actually start training.

Hiking the trail itself presents a number of other challenges not typically encountered on a standard backpacking trip or outdoor outing, especially on such a seldom touched trail. As mentioned, you will confront loneliness in a way previously unknown to you before, especially if you go alone. And I highly recommend you go alone. Going with a loved one is fun, but if you really want to know yourself like never before (and pardon the cliché), wandering alone through the desert will reveal parts of yourself that you never knew were there. You'll discover a confidence that shapes your life. You'll know love on another level. You'll come away with a new appreciation for public lands and the natural world. You'll want to repair damaged relationships. You'll find a new motivation to accomplish other goals. You'll be in the best shape of your life, regardless of age. You'll have a trust and understanding in your body's abilities like never before. And most importantly, you'll love yourself like never before. That was why I was out here. Whether that was to be the ultimate outcome was still yet to be determined.

Mike Cavaroc is an accomplished wildlife photographer and writer currently living in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Order your electronic copy of Wanderlove today through his website: freeroamingphotography.com.

AZT Expeditions Adds Flagstaff Area Trips

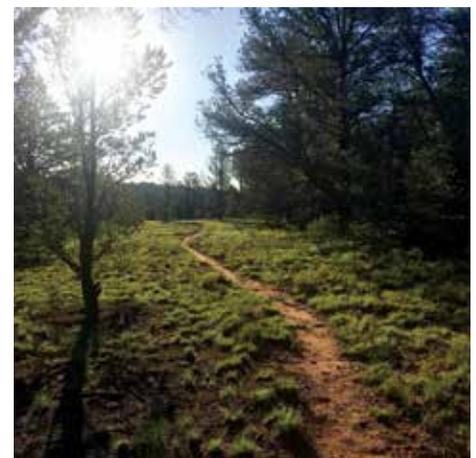
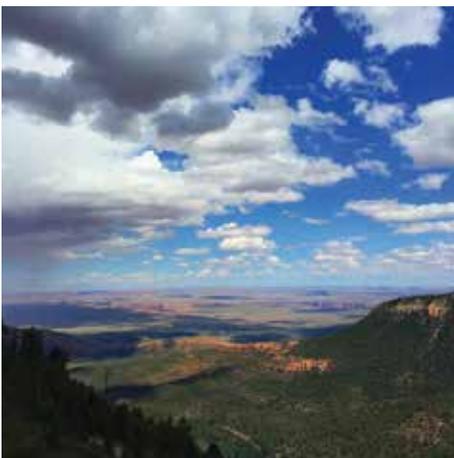
AZT Expeditions recently launched two new self-guided mountain bike tours on the Arizona National Scenic Trail – Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon, and Flagstaff to Mormon Lake. Both self-guided tours are 4-day/3-night tours and fill out a lineup of five different mountain bike trips offered by AZT Expeditions. A portion of tour proceeds is donated to the Arizona Trail Association and is used for maintenance and protection of the Arizona Trail. “This permit is something we’ve been working on for a long time now,” said AZT Expeditions Director Matt McFee, “We’re very thankful to the ATA and for the cooperation of the Coconino National Forest.”

AZT Expeditions is a partnership between the Arizona Trail Association and Hermosa Tours, LLC. Working together, we have designed separate itineraries for hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners which feature some of the most scenic passages of the Arizona Trail. Itineraries range between three to five days with very affordable pricing and group sizes are limited to 12 or fewer.

These self-guided adventures are ideal for individuals, couples, families and groups of friends who are independent and adventurous enough to travel long distances on the Arizona Trail without a guide, but who would rather not carry all of their food, water and camping gear to each day’s destination. Just grab what you need for the

day and hit the trail. An AZT Expeditions leader drives all your food and gear to camp each night, sets up a deluxe kitchen and bathroom, and waits for you to arrive. You move along the trail at your own pace, assemble your own tent, cook your own food, and create your own AZT experience.

Learn more about the itineraries offered by AZT Expeditions at aztexpeditions.com.



The new mug features the Highline Passage of the AZT.

Handmade AZT Mugs for Members Only

We are delighted to announce the second in a series of commemorative mugs celebrating the natural beauty of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The new mug features a scene from the Highline Passage of the AZT within Mogollon Rim country, including the iconic cliffs, dense chaparral vegetation, and an old-growth juniper tree. Since black bears frequent this part of the AZT, we included one of those, too.

AZT Mugs are available as a “thank you gift” for anyone renewing their membership

at the Ironwood, Saguaro, Juniper or Ponderosa Pine levels. Even if you recently joined or renewed your membership, when you commit to another year of support for the ATA at one of these levels, we’ll add an additional year to your membership expiration date. Then you will receive a mug within a week of your renewal...while they last.

Please help us reach our 2018 fundraising goals by renewing your membership today at aztrail.org/membership/join.html



To commemorate Earth Day this year, the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) coordinated a youth stewardship opportunity with a group of high school students participating in the Coronado Youth Corps (CYC) program. Funded by the US Forest Service and ATA members and donors, CYC is a paid internship for high school students to learn more about trail construction and maintenance, invasive species removal, and the importance of caring for public lands. By the end of the program, youth will also have developed job skills, learned about careers available outdoors, and built important connections with land management agencies and each other. Youth dedicate four weekends during the spring months, and then one week in the summertime to improving the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

In April, Treven Hooker, Southern Arizona Seeds of Stewardship Coordinator, Tasha Pontifex, Passage 7 Steward, and I led the CYC on a two-mile hike to the bottom of Enzenberg Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. CYC participants cleared a large fallen oak from the trail, widened the switchback coming out of the wash, and added two wayfinding cairns on either side of the wash crossing. As we worked back up the canyon, they brushed encroaching vegetation, widened tread by re-benching into the

backslope, installed and/or cleaned out 12 drains, and cleared loose rubble off the trail.

The crew was efficient, committed, and seemed genuinely excited to be outdoors. They retained much of their knowledge from their very first day as CYC participants, when American Conservation Experience hosted a custom one-day Trails Institute Training to teach them the art and science of trail work. They had already been involved with projects in the Santa Catalina Mountains close to home, but this was their first time in the Santa Rita Mountains. After they packed up their tools and started hiking back to the car, it was obvious the AZT was in much better condition than before we arrived.

Students are looking forward to escaping the heat of the desert this summer by working at higher elevations along the Arizona Trail. Look for them the next time you're out on the AZT, and thank them for their hard work.

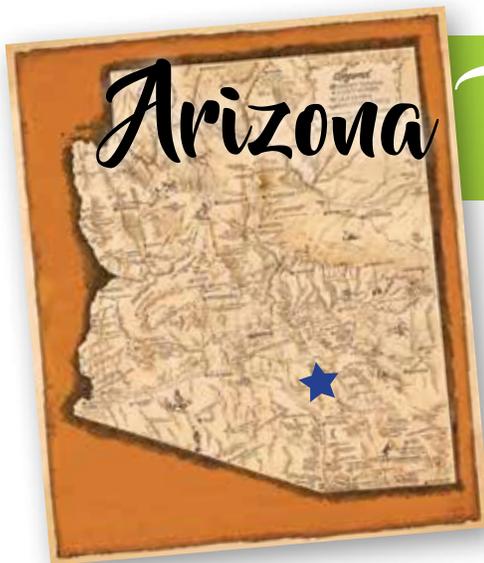
If you would like to support the Coronado Youth Corps and the ATA's other youth outreach, education and stewardship programs, please make a donation online today (aztrail.org/get-involved/donate/) or send a check to our office. Working together, we're building the next generation of stewards of Arizona's wild lands.



Rae helps clear the corridor by limbing a juniper tree. ATA Photo



Zies shows off his handiwork after repairing a switchback corner. ATA Photo



Arizona

Trail History

Passage 15 – Tortilla Mountains

by Preston Sands

Much of the southern portion of this passage travels through historic, early Arizona ranches, including the Hayden, Cottonwood, and Ripsey ranches. The high desert grasslands attracted many ranchers to Arizona during the late 19th century.

Roughly seven miles into this passage heading northbound, the Arizona Trail crosses the route of the old Florence Road, which was a wagon route connecting Dudleyville and the San Pedro River basin with the town of Florence.

The Gila River, beginning in western New Mexico, is one of Arizona's major river systems, and has long been an important travel corridor. During Arizona's frontier period, the old wagon road between Florence and Globe followed the Gila River in places, through isolated desert hills. The Florence-Globe road could be a dangerous route in those days. On November 1, 1889, Gila County Sheriff, Globe pioneer turned deputy sheriff William "Hunkydory" Holmes and a driver by the name of Eugene Middleton left Globe on a stagecoach, escorting eight convicted Apache prisoners, including the infamous "Apache Kid," to the Yuma Territorial Prison.

On day two of their journey, in the vicinity of today's Arizona Trail route, Sheriff Reynolds had seven of the prisoners get off of the stagecoach and walk up the steep hill they had come to, in order to lighten the stagecoach's load. Reynolds and Holmes walked with the prisoners, guarding them. Distance grew between the stagecoach and the party on foot, and soon the stagecoach was out of sight, rounding a curve. The Apache prisoners

suddenly turned on Reynolds and Holmes, knocking them to the ground and attacking them. Holmes was hit in the head with rocks before one of the prisoners shot him in the head with his own rifle. The prisoners managed to shoot Reynolds in the chest with his own pistol. One of the prisoners, Jesus Avott, quickly ran up the hill to warn Middleton, the stage driver Middleton was shortly knocked from the coach by a bullet through his neck, and pretended to be dead as the Apaches turned their attention on him. Freed from their shackles using Sheriff Reynold's keys, the Apache prisoners made their escape. Middleton and Avott were able to make it to the safety of nearby towns, and a massive manhunt soon formed. Seven of the prisoners were soon captured, but the Apache Kid was never seen again.

On May 30, 1899, Pearl Hart and her shady boyfriend Joe Boot, in need of money, robbed a stagecoach traveling the Florence-Globe wagon road near Kane Springs, just east of the Gila River. Pearl, a young woman from Canada who had become enamored with the romance of the "Wild West" had traveled to Arizona a few years before. Instead of finding fortune, she turned to saloons, whiskey, morphine, prostitution, and Joe Boot, a gambler and miner who lived in Mammoth. Joe hatched the robbery plan, and their heist netted them \$400. Fleeing south along the San Pedro River, Pearl and Joe were caught only a few days later

in Benson. Pearl used her charm to solicit help to escape the Tucson jail where she was being held, but was soon recaptured in New Mexico. Pearl and Joe were ultimately convicted of robbing the stagecoach and served time in the Yuma Territorial Prison. Feigning pregnancy while in prison, Pearl managed to win an early release and left Arizona for a more honest life.

Preston Sands is a local historian who currently works for Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC). He has written chapters on Arizona history for each of the Arizona Trail's 43 passages, which will be published in an upcoming version of the Arizona Trail App (Guthook Hikes) and in the second edition of Your Complete Guide to the Arizona National Scenic Trail (Wilderness Press).

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As with every passage of the Arizona Trail, the Tortilla Mountains are filled with interesting history. ATA Photo

Tips for Trail Stewards: Trail Outsloping – When to Bust the Berm

by Mark Loeth

Trail work is a wonderful discipline. It involves many skills, tools from many different trades, and understanding the way humans interact with nature. We make decisions on the trail that blend art and science. But we still have some rules. Rules make disciplines easier to memorize, follow, and teach. How can rules be bad, you ask?

Well, I can think of one bad rule when it comes to trail work, especially when it comes to outslope. Outslope is the angle of the trail tread between the backslope and critical edge (see diagram). While most people assume trails should be flat, trail stewards recognize that flat trails don't properly shed water. Multiple "How to" guides for trail work state that tread outslope must be established at 5%. That's a terrible rule!

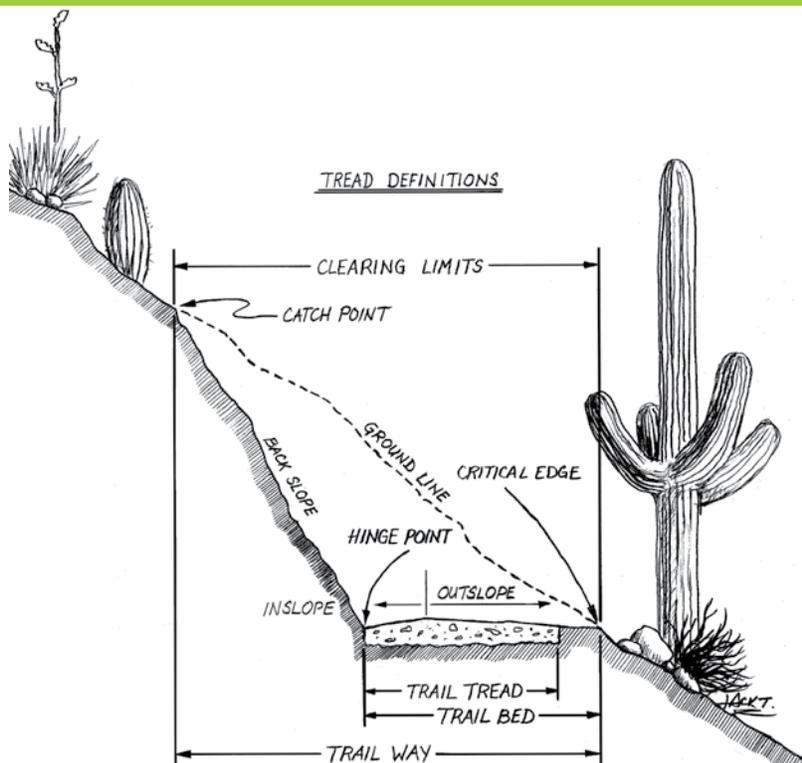
Tip for Trail Stewards

For outsloping to be effective, the angle of the outslope must exceed the linear grade of the trail.

Imagine you are working on a section of trail that has a 10% linear grade. You have decided to bust the berm or outslope the trail following the rule of 5%. Where will the water go once it makes it to the trail? Probably right down the middle of the trail!

Often times, as trails age and begin to "trough" from wear along the centerline of the trail it becomes important to bust the berm along the critical edge, and outslope the tread to avoid the trail becoming a waterway during rainstorms.

Remember, water is lazy and will only take the path of least resistance. Your outsloping has to be that path or the water will keep flowing down the



trail. Trail outslope is comfortable for users up to about 8%. Many trail sections we need to maintain exceed this in linear grade and these areas are not appropriate for outsloping (refer to the article "What to do with Erosion" in the Spring 2016 issue for more information on steep trails). The most accurate way to measure outslope is with a clinometer or a smartphone app (just search for "clinometer" to find free apps and a few that cost a few dollars).

You must find the balance of shedding water naturally and encouraging users to stay on the trail. In areas where outsloping is productive, it's a great way to ensure that your trail acts naturally on the landscape.

Now that's a rule worth following.

Mark Loeth is the National Trails Coordinator for American Conservation Experience (ACE). *Tips for Trail Stewards* is a regular column intended to further your understanding and skills in trail maintenance. The ideas have been developed, tested and proven by trail professionals on the Arizona Trail. To learn more about the art and science of trail stewardship, sign up for one of the Trail Skills Institute classes offered by ACE throughout the year by visiting aztrail.org/volunteers/training.html



Notice the outslope of the trail tread in relation to the hillside. Water will not run down the center of this trail. ACE Photo



There are ample opportunities to get involved with the Arizona Trail Association. Check our online calendar regularly for updated information: aztrail.org/events/event-calendar/. We're adding more great events all the time, and the only way they are successful is with help from volunteers like you.



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