

Arizona Trail Association Volunteer Program Report

8/2018 – 10/2018

ATA Hosted Events:

Bi-Annual Stewardship Conference August 18-19 (Mission Responsibility #2 Strategic Goal)

Twenty-three AZT Stewards gathered at Mormon Lake Lodge for the Summer Stewardship Conference. Among the highlights was a trail troubleshooting session with Matt Roberts from ACE, an introduction to the new Volunteer Management Program and Roger Smith's talk on the Chilson Spring renewal. After a very predictable afternoon thunderstorm, conditions were beautiful for camp chat and tacos back on Happy Jack. Sunday was focused on building and evaluating new trail on the Happy Jack passage.

"These conferences have always been fun and informative. I specifically enjoyed meeting Conrad, who has the Mormon Lake passage next to mine. We have already been working together to help trail users since we met at the meeting." – Bill Sandercock

North Rim Fence Building Project – August 24-26 (Mission Responsibility #2 Strategic Goal)

Shawn Redfield lead volunteers in mini Volunteer Vacation model event on the North Rim building fences at the Orderville Trailhead. Providing meals for hard working folks always brings out the best in their work ethic.

Butterfly Trail – Novio Spring Overnight Work Event – September 3-4

Volunteer response was not what we'd hoped, but it was still critical to get out and scout the Butterfly and Crystal Springs trails of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass in preparation for a series of events coming in the fall. Great transformation planned for this caterpillar to embrace it's inner Butterfly!

Happy Jack Singletrack Build Day – September 9 (Mission Responsibility #2, #3 & #4 Strategic Goals)

Originally planned as a part of Latino Conservation Week and postponed due to high fire danger in the area, this event followed up the AZ Trail Day Flagstaff with a way for folks to get out and build new Happy Jack Trail! Seven volunteers and one 10-month-old Springer spaniel worked to improve trail built by youth crews earlier in the year.

AHS Volunteer Vacation – September 22-28 (Mission Responsibility #2, #3 & #4 Strategic Goals)

Eight American Hiking Society Volunteers and five Arizona Trail regulars worked for five days to complete the next phase of the Happy Jack Singletrack project. Volunteers came in from Nevada, Colorado, Georgia and Ohio to throw dirt around in the forests of Northern Arizona. The group built nearly .8 miles of trail through grassy meadows and boulder-strewn hillsides. As always with these AHS events, the quality of volunteers was top-notch and we had a great time

Trail Skills Institute Modules 1&2 – September 23 (Mission Responsibility #2 & #3 Strategic Goal)

Matt Roberts and Mark Loeth taught trail skills to a sold-out crowd under the pines at Happy Jack. Twelve participants included three staff members from the USFS Mogollon Ranger District and four AZT stewards. They worked on improving a short stretch of existing singletrack on the Happy Jack passage.

Happy Jack Singletrack Kickoff Event – September 29-30 (Mission Responsibility #2 & #3 Strategic Goal)

This weekend event to celebrate the kickoff of our Happy Jack Singletrack grant project was originally planned for June but rescheduled due to high risk of fire. Forty-eight volunteers contributed to the construction of the final .25 miles of trail to complete the next phase of the project and opened 2.8 miles of new trail to users. Sponsored by REI, the event included a hosted potluck dinner with an amazing variety of camp favorites and a pancake breakfast provided by REI staff.

Outreach Events: (Mission Responsibility #4 Strategic Goal)

AZ Trail Day Flagstaff (Sept 8); Fire on the Rim Mountain Bike Race (9/17); Steve Chaffee – Poetry Reading (AZT Passages in Poetry) at REI in Tucson, Paradise Valley and Chandler (Sept-October); Western National Parks Association – AZT Presentation to Celebrate 50th (Oct 3rd);

New Stewards:

James Bock – Black Hills (14c); Jim Hugo – Rincon Valley (7a); Pete Stephens Tortilla Mountains (15a).

Other Accomplishments

Went live with Galaxy Digital Volunteer Management System on 9-21! Visit at volunteer.aztrail.org.

Upcoming!

October 27-28: Trail Skills Institute Module 4 – Spots are still open for this class focused on Reroute design and new trail layout techniques.

November 6-9: Volunteer Vacation – Pusch Ridge Wilderness. 4 day backcountry adventure to the wilderness deep in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Sponsored by the NWSA Grant.

November 10 – Colossal Vail 50/50 – Volunteers needed for several positions/shifts.

November 17 – Butterfly Trail Transformation Project – Trail work to reclaim the wilderness bypass route from the wilderness.

November 18 – Pusch Ridge Wilderness Partnership Event – continued work on the wilderness of the Santa Catalinas in partnership with TORCA and Tucson Trail Runners.



1 - Cutting the Ribbon on New HJST