

Arizona Trail Association Volunteer Program Report

11/2018 – 03/2019

Volunteer Hours Reported: 5351

Unique Volunteers Engaged: 766

Key Events and Programs:

Completed Butterfly Trail Transformation Project

Three events in the second half of 2018 brought in 15 volunteers and one conservation corps crew to improve the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass.

Quilter Trail Maintenance in Saguaro National Park

We worked with staff at Saguaro National Park to restore our volunteer program on the AZT within Park boundaries. 3 work events were enthusiastically embraced by volunteers and resulted in the improvement of nearly 2 miles of remote trail, and also recruiting a new and engaged segment steward for segment 9B. We continue to work to establish a new General Agreement with the park which will allow stewards and ATA volunteers more autonomy in addressing trail issues.

Increase in Steward Hosted Volunteer Events

The new Volunteer Management System has given stewards a venue for posting their work events and recruiting volunteers to help with maintenance projects. As we roll out training for stewards and volunteers on how to best use the system, we are seeing a dramatic increase in new volunteers engaging in routine events.

Bi-Annual Steward Conference

Despite Snowpocalypse 2019, we still managed to hold the training portion of our winter steward conference at Oracle State Park on February 24. We reviewed the new Volunteer Management System and also spent time celebrating some of the achievements of 2018 and looking at our goals for the upcoming year. We avoided the trail and the foot of snow that was deposited upon it by sitting next to a toasty fireplace at the Kannally Ranch House.

Outreach with Latino Outdoors

In an effort to welcome a more diverse population to participation in trail activities, we've started partnering with Latino Outdoors Tucson Chapter. On March 9 I led a hike on Passage 8 with 11 members of their club and community, and we all had way more fun than should be allowed on trail. Plans for partnering with the Flagstaff chapter once they are chipped out of the ice are also in place. Hopefully this will lead to a successful event for Latino Conservation Week this summer in both regions.

Outreach Events: (Mission Responsibility #4 Strategic Goal)

Greater Phoenix Mensa Gathering (11/2018); Poetry Readings with Steve Chaffee (multiple dates and locations); Tucson Festival of Books (3/2-3/3)

New Stewards:

Larry Doyle (9b); Jerry and Yvone Grover (19d); Merianne Brittan (23b); Sandy Fortner (23b); Sarah and Chris Baxter (1b); Mike Gasperek (24b)

Other Accomplishments

Developed a step-by-step guide for using the Volunteer Management System; Reinstated the Challenge 43 program; set up corporate volunteer opportunities for Resolution Copper and Western Digital.