

Arizona Trail Association Volunteer Program Report

11/2019 – 03/2020

Volunteer Hours Reported: 4,789

Volunteers Engaged: 628

Key Events and Programs:

Steward Hosted Trail Work Events: 11/8 Passage 17a&b Backcountry Maintenance with 4WD Support from TRAL; 11/5 and 12/15 Passage 7 work events; 11/20, 12/4, 1/15 and 2/19 Saddlebrooke events in Oracle State Park.

Supersition Mountains Recovery: In addition to the sign work and evaluation work done by our core volunteers, Regional Steward Craig Gregory held 2 events on Montana Mountain and in Reavis Trail Canyon on Passage 18, outside of the Woodbury Fire area. Twenty-five volunteers participated, an early indication that involvement in this area in the wake of the fire is attractive to volunteers, even if we're not working directly in the fire scar area. Volunteers on-foot are asking to participate in the historically equestrian maintenance of 18a on March 14th and we have 8 vetted volunteers signed up for a self-supported backpacking work event out of Reavis Ranch March 27-30. Engaging these volunteers now is critical to keeping their interest when the real work of recovery is needed 1-10 years down the road. While erosion and treefall is the physical danger to the trail, a loss of momentum and visibility is the danger to the operational health.

Trail Skills Institute 2020: The first installment of the redesigned Trail Skills Institute Modules 1 and 2 were delivered over leap-day and the first day of March. Fitting somehow since we seem to be modifying this on a leap-year schedule. The enrollment numbers were lower than in early classes last year, potentially because of the 2-day commitment to the training instead of the previous single-day format. Participants were unanimous, however, that the second day was critical to understanding the material. Also notable was the fact that 100% of the participants were Arizona Trail Association Volunteers. The next training will be Stone Structures and is scheduled to be held in the Mogollon Rim Country on March 21-22.

One-n-Ten Work Day (Diversity and Inclusion): On November 23rd, we worked with 18 members of the LGBTQ youth support organization One-n-ten to host a trail work event on Passage 18 near Hewitt Station. These young people were excited to be outside and participating on public lands and we are planning another event with them in 2020.

Resolution Copper/Rio Tinto Volunteer Day: Fostered a love affair between hard working mine employees and the trail on Valentines Day. 31 volunteers from Resolution Copper joined 3 volunteers from the ATA 10 to continue tread improvement on Passage 18 north of Hewitt Station Road. We aim for 18a to reach new heights of diversity and tread quality all in one!

Outreach Events:

REI Garage Sale Tucson 2/8; Just Roughin' It Public Lands Day 2/15; Wild About Arizona – Desert Botanical Gardens 2/15

New Stewards:

Beth Keune (18b); Tracy Fleming (25d); Bob Bevill (8c); Rick Dethman (28c)

Other Accomplishments

Volunteer Management system has been getting a lot of attention. We have many more questions about what kinds of hours can be counted toward the rewards, and there appears to be an uptick in reporting. The Orange Hat brigade is already becoming a mark of honor among those who work with novice volunteers and we have our badges set for the 100, 250 and 500 hour awards.



Which hat do you wear for the ATA?