

The Gap is Now Closed and the Trail is now Open!

After a lot of digging, chopping, cutting, and raking by many, many industrious volunteers, youth corps workers and stalwart Coconino National Forest construction crews, the 36 mile long Arizona Trail San Francisco Peaks passage is now complete. Arguably one of the prettiest sections of the Arizona Trail, it winds its way through aspen groves, pine thickets and open fields. Proximity to Mt. Humphreys and a unique ecosystem make the trek here very special. It is now ready



for your enjoyment. Working closely with Brian Poturalski and Sean Murphy and other Coconino National Forest staff, Gay and Gary Hohner coordinated a three-year "Close the Gap" volunteer recruiting and trail building effort primarily with a series of two- and three-day work events during the summer months. Each work event was led by AZT stewards with hundreds of trail workers from the Flagstaff area and across the state.

Las Colinas and Las Cienegas Passages Now Complete!

"We didn't build just a trail. Along the way we forged a community."

--Mark Flint

Pima County Recreation Planner Steve Anderson's 1990's plan to link the Arizona Trail from Saguaro National Park 40 miles south to the Coronado National Forest is now a reality. The Cienega Corridor project started as a volunteer effort to build a 25-mile segment of the Arizona Trail beginning at Saguaro National Park in the

Rincon Mountains and working south to the Santa Rita Mountains. A second project, the Las Colinas segment, began in 2008 to extend the trail another twelve miles into the Santa Rita foothills, tying it in with the Arizona Trail where it ended at Oak Tree Canyon. This is another example of southern Arizona community volunteerism.

AZT into Saguaro National Park – Check This One Off, Too!



As is the Arizona Trail way, many forces came together to complete this 4.5 mile section of trail in early 2011. With support from Congresswoman Giffords, Park staff led many groups in building this trail in barely a year's time. Once again, we have another outstanding example of agency folks and volunteers working together on the Arizona Trail.

***The best place for Arizona Trail information is the ATA web site.
For the latest trail news read the "Trail Conditions" page.***

The Arizona Trail Our Vision ...

... a continuous, non-motorized trail traversing the State - nearly 817 miles from Mexico to Utah, linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities and people

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Trail work is never done."

by Dave Hicks

The front cover of this newsletter proudly recognizes the completion of some long sought sections of the Arizona Trail. Those sections took tremendous effort from the initial idea to the last foot of trail being built. And I assure you that those successes didn't happen overnight. Happily, we are nearing the finish line for a continuous path across the beautiful state of Arizona. Hopefully the last section of the AZT will be built by the end of 2011. When that happens, AZT visionary Dale Shewalter will be smiling down on it.

Recently, I have heard a few comments of "what will we do next?" Well, I know it's gratifying to build new trail. And the wide-spread enthusiasm shown over the last 25 years is heart-warming. And I have to admit that there is tremendous pride in possibly being only the third complete National Scenic Trail. BUT, work on the Arizona Trail has only started.

The AZT is forever and there is much to be done today and I guarantee you that in the future there always will be needed trail work and improvements. The AZT has lots of room to improve from better tread to better signage with a goal to make the trail more user friendly. In addition, there are many potential reroutes that will make the trail experience better. Plus, unavoidable natural inflictions from fire, wind and water will continue to cause devastating damage. And unfortunately, human actions will continue to make the trail susceptible to both minor repairs and very significant change.

Thus, "trail work is never done". So as in the past 25 years, the ATA along with its many agency, club and business partners will rely on its unequalled volunteers to meet the challenges that come with being a long distance trail, a state "Treasure", and a National Scenic Trail. I am confident all of those challenges will be met and the Arizona Trail will become a better and better long distance trail.

Arizona Trail Guide Book: PDF Version Coming Soon

As the last few printed copies of the Arizona Trail Official Guide book were shipped out of the ATA office, work had begun on revising, updating and improving the Arizona Trail bible. Simplified and streamlined, the new version will be one more ATA member benefit that is available for downloading from the ATA website as a PDF. Look for it in the next couple of months. And, don't worry in the near future a hard copy will be available for purchase too.

Arizona Trail Gateway Community Shop Opens in Patagonia

Arizona Trail users in Patagonia have a new resource for equipping their adventures. Mariposa Books and More now offers supplies and trail necessities including Arizona Trail t-shirts and bandanas. Already known as Patagonia's visitor information center, Mariposa Books and More features maps and local interest books. Owner Ann Caston is truly a wealth of information on the area and is a great supporter of the Arizona Trail. Visit Ann at 317 S. McKeown Avenue, (520) 394-9186. Email Mariposa Books and More at maripo@theriver.com.

Arizona Trail Association, PO Box 36736, Phoenix, Az 85067
Phone 602-252-4794

Register NOW for Arizona Trail Members Rendezvous September 23 - 25, Mormon Lake Lodge

- Free camping, entertainment, fun, food, and friends
- Saturday evening presentation by Ken and Marcia Powers, long-distance hiking legends
- Friday evening presentation by Max Morris, 2011 thru-biker and AZT300 ride finisher
- Music by Flagstaff musician Tony Norris
- ATCA hikes-n-rides, trail work and more
- National Public Lands Day children's booth and trail work event on Saturday

Come early, relax and enjoy the cool, fresh air of the Mormon Lake area

Details at the ATA Home page, aztrail.org



SOBO in 2011, with a Side Trip to ATA Rendezvous
“GottaWalk” hikers Ken and Marcia Powers plan to travel the Arizona Trail north to south (South-BOund or SOBO) from September 15 to October 31, 2011. They’ll make a special guest appearance at the ATA’s Member Rendezvous at Mormon Lake Lodge for the Saturday night presentation. This is a not-to-be-missed program!

Friday

Wanted: Members Rendezvous Potluck Cooks

Want to contribute to the foodfest at the Friday night potluck? Let Terri know at editor@aztrail.org. Soups, breads, salads, desserts welcome. Vegetarian dishes needed.



Saturday, September 24:

National Public Lands Day Rendezvous Work Event

The work site is only a few miles from Mormon Lake Lodge. National Public Lands Day is Saturday, September 24. Join us for trail maintenance and fix-up. Lunches provided for registered volunteers courtesy Public Lands Foundation in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

Make your reservation now: Gary or Gay Hohner, sghohner@cox.net.

Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure (ATCA)

Be part of the Arizona Trail Centennial Adventure! Groups will collectively hike, bike, run or ride the entire 800+ mile Arizona Trail in sections in September and October 2011. Sections vary from easy to rugged, short to long. It’s free; everyone is welcome. See details on the ATA Home page.



The ATCA kick off event will be held 9:30 AM September 24 at the Rendezvous – join us!

SPECIAL FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOP

ASCOT/ATA Workshop – “Arizona Trails – Linking Communities”

The Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the ATA are hosting a trails workshop on Friday, September 23rd at Mormon Lake Lodge. Details at the ATA Home page. Separate registration fee.

This newsletter is available in color at the ATA website.



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ATA Membership

The streamlined ATA individual membership process implemented in June has gone smoothly. Thank you for your patience in making this work! It's easy to join or renew your membership online from www.aztrail.org. And the list of membership benefits continues to grow: Online Access To: Map and GPS Data, Passage Access Maps, 16 Navigational Maps of the Entire Trail, Trail Data Book, Loop Route Maps and Information, Decal sent with Annual Special Edition Color Newsletter, Newsletters - via US mail or online, Coming soon – the online Arizona Trail Guidebook

***Your membership supports the Arizona Trail.
Every individual club and business member is appreciated.***