

# **TRAIL TRACKS**

*A Publication Of Yavapai Trails Association*

Fall 2005

## **LONG CANYON TRAIL, SEDONA**

Most of my trail descriptions have been in the Prescott area. This time the trail is in Sedona, a little over an hour drive from Prescott. Sedona has a variety of great trails in the beautiful Red Rock Country. You must purchase a Red Rock Pass to park almost anywhere in the Coconino National Forest in the Sedona area. If you are 62 years old, the Golden Age Passport, costing \$10 and gives you and your passengers free access into all National Parks and Monuments. It can also be used instead of the Red Rock Pass, as well as in the Prescott National Forest in lieu of the \$2 fee.

To reach the trailhead for Long Canyon trail (# 122), drive 3 miles west on AZ 89A from the "Y" in Sedona (that's where AZ 179 meets AZ 89A) to Dry Creek Road, at a traffic light. Turn right (north) and continue on Dry Creek Road for another 3 miles until it dead-ends at a T-junction. Turn right here and drive on Long Canyon Road for 0.6 miles, to the trailhead parking on the left.

This is an easy hike, the first half is unshaded while the second half is in the forest — part of the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness. The trail rises gently until you are well into the forest, where you will encounter some steeper sections. You can walk as far as your energy and time allows, before returning by the same route. The trail ends in a box canyon, somewhat under two hours one way. This trail is similar to many others in the Sedona area, but what makes it special are the Indian ruins.

The first part of the trail is along an old dirt road. You are diverted off this old road along a recently constructed foot trail for a while. This is due to the new golf course off to your right. About eleven minutes from the trailhead, after

the new trail has rejoined the old road, you can take a side trail that goes off to the left (there is a large post by the trail close to this junction). This side trail leads to the top of Mescal Mountain, which gives great views in all directions — about 20 minutes from the main trail. There are places where you have to stretch a little to reach the top, but the panoramas make the effort worthwhile.



*View from Mescal Mountain*

If you continue on the main trail, you will come to a trail junction under a power line (about 20 minutes from the trailhead). If you go left here, it takes you through Deadman Pass and connects with the Boynton Canyon trailhead near the Enchantment Resort. If you are mountain biking, this is the route you must take, as the main trail into Long Canyon soon becomes wilderness and closed to bicycles.

You have been walking between mostly scrub oak, juniper and manzanita up to this point. Once you reach the wilderness, you soon are amongst taller trees — mainly Arizona Cypress with its peeling bark and majestic ponderosas,

## Officers

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## Committees

Historic Trails & Outreach Committee: Nigel Reynolds

Trails Maintenance Committee: Bob Sutton

Newsletter Committee: Ron Smith and Natasha Casteel

Special Events Committee: Susan Brook

Cartographer: Derek Brownlee

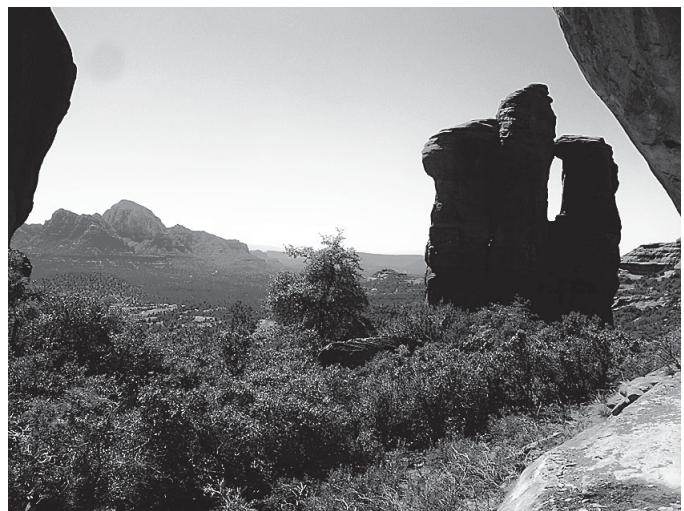
YTA Website: Aaron Casteel

## Goals

The primary goal of YTA is to assist in the development of a system of interconnecting trails for hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists throughout Yavapai County; to foster cooperation and communications among all trails user groups; to promote communication and cooperation with all government agencies regarding trails; to create higher visibility for trail opportunities and issues; and to seek development of new trail resources.

Yavapai Trails Association is a nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax deductible, but dues are not.

but some cottonwoods and other deciduous trees too. The canyon begins to narrow, affording views of red cliffs. The trail parallels the creek of Long Canyon, which it crosses numerous times once you are in the wilderness. There was no water flowing when I was there in early September.



*View from Sinagua ruin*

I had been told about Indian ruins along this trail by a tradesman here in Prescott but was unable to find them on my own. Fortunately, I made friends with a fellow who knew where they were, and on my last visit he guided me to one of the best. Access required some steep climbs, a little scrambling and negotiating ten-foot cliffs on the way. The Sinagua ruin was in an alcove under a red cliff. It consisted of four rooms, with the walls in good shape, about chest height. Corn-cobs and a few potsherds were visible. The view from the ruin was impressive, with a stained red cliff opposite and a hoodoo framing one side of the vista back towards modern Sedona. On our climb back down to the creek, the peace and quiet was disturbed by a helicopter — the pilot was showing tourists the interesting ruin.

I have purposely not provided details on how to find this ruin. I know this Newsletter is circulated beyond YTA members, and unfortunately there are too many vandals out there who don't revere the past, so I'm not taking a chance. If any YTA member wants more information on this ruin, please contact me.

— Nigel Reynolds

## **NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, SALIDA GULCH**

Salida Gulch can be reached from Walker Road, which goes south from AZ 69 near Costco on the east side of Prescott. Drive south on Walker Road and turn left onto the first dirt road — this is about a mile from highway 69 and leads past the Lynx Creek Ruin parking area. After half a mile, this road ends at the trailhead, next to Lynx Creek, with houses on the far side of the locked gate. The Salida Gulch trail crosses Lynx Creek from the trailhead, with the motorized trail following the fence line on the left (north) side of the gulch. The hiking trail, #93, currently goes along the south side of the gulch. The Forest Service will eventually close this hiking route because its current riparian path is unsustainable and to protect various petroglyphs farther up the drainage.

A new trail is being constructed high above the gulch on its south side. Work on this trail started in earnest on National Trails Day back in June of this year. It will take about two years before it is complete — a little more than a mile long connecting back to the existing trail. Don't try and use this new trail yet as it does not go through.

The work is being done by Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona, an organization based in Tempe which improves and constructs non-motorized trails all over Arizona. (For more information, check their website: [www.voaz.org](http://www.voaz.org).) This was their first trail work in the Prescott National Forest. The main sponsor for the June work was the national chain of outdoor stores Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) which has two stores in the Valley. YTA co-sponsored the lunch for that day and provided medical support for minor first aid.

Over forty people worked on the trail in June, mostly from the Valley which provides the bulk of VOAZ's work force. These volunteers enjoy getting away from the summer heat in the Phoenix basin. There were six volunteers from the Prescott area, including at least three from YTA. Brush was cleared from about 2000 yards of trail using a variety of tools and techniques. Instruction and safety guidance was provided by the VOAZ team leaders, and the individual workers

soon learned to perform as a team. It was demanding work, but frequent breaks for water allowed everyone a chance to relax and make new friends. By the end of the day, we felt satisfied with what we had accomplished. With a group of volunteers, there is always enthusiasm and camaraderie.



Workers from VOAZ construct portion of new trail alignment near Salida Gulch

The work on the trail was continued over the second weekend in October. This time, there was a smaller group of about twenty people, again mostly from the Valley. I think I was the sole representative from the Prescott area, perhaps due to a lower level of advance publicity. If any readers are interested in future work days — and there will be quite a few — please contact me. I will note your name and keep you informed. In October, we concentrated on the short section of trail where it climbed out of Lynx Creek. This required stone work on the downslope side of the trail and construction of drainage channels so the trail won't be washed away by winter and monsoon rains.

— Nigel Reynolds  
[nigelaz@aol.com](mailto:nigelaz@aol.com)  
717-2466

## **YAVAPAI HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Recently the Yavapai Horsemen's Association elected to become a member of YTA. This new group is very active and their mission is to serve as a voice for horsemen in Yavapai County, support local horse related organizations, to promote horse related activities in Yavapai County, to recognize and respect all breeds and their breeders, trainers, owners, riders, and to learn more about various equine disciplines.

If horses are your interest we strongly urge you to join this group who are dedicated to ensuring that all equine activities continue to be a big part of Yavapai County. Their membership form is available on their website: (Call 445-0072 or cell 713-8911 for this info).

YTA is joining Yavapai Horsemen's Association as are many other varied organizations with any interest in horse activities. As we know, trails were originally for equestrian or pedestrian use, and the trails today are widely used by horsemen. For more information about YHA write to them at P. O. Box 3943, Prescott, AZ 86302.

## **YAVAPAI COLLEGE DOING A HORSE SURVEY & CENSUS**

John Morgan, Associate Dean at Yavapai College Agribusiness and Science is conducting a horse survey for an economic impact study. The equine industry affects truck and trailer outlets, building manufacturers, fencing companies, tractor rentals and sales, feed and supply retailers as well as movers. Tourism related to rodeos, sows, races and other events also represent an important contribution to Yavapai County's economy in lodging, meals and other services. You can pick up the forms at your Savoini's, Olsen's, and western clothing stores or get it over the internet at <http://surveys.yc.edu/surveys/equine.htm>. They also include a self-addressed stamped envelope. In conjunction with this survey, Yavapai Horsemen's Association is doing a census so if you have horses and haven't been contacted already, please contact Cathy Schultz for County District 1 ([catbyaz@cableone.net](mailto:catbyaz@cableone.net)) or Jinny Balentine ([jinnyb29@hotmail.com](mailto:jinnyb29@hotmail.com)) for District 2.

## **TRAIL USER SURVEY**

Do you have ideas of how to improve and expand trail opportunities?

Do you have any suggestions for a speaker/topic at an annual meeting?

In order to accomplish more we are considering forming committees to spread the work load.

Do you have any time and/or talent you are willing to share with us?

Would you consider joining us on the YTA Board or a committee?

You can reply to: YTA, 2830 Tohatchi Rd., Prescott, AZ 86305 or email: [altrail@cableone.net](mailto:altrail@cableone.net).

## **NEW SURVIVAL COURSES ANNOUNCED**

Cody Lundin, nationally known instructor, guide, and trainer in the art of survival skills is based in Prescott. He has recently announced a schedule of new courses and an entire calendar of events for 2006. In a recent e-mail he introduced this schedule with the following remarks:

"Greetings! Our web site will reflect new, 2006 Calendar dates, (and early enrollment discounts!) in a couple of weeks at [www.alssadventures.com](http://www.alssadventures.com). If you're on my mailing list, I'll send you a paper brochure soon there after.

Contact me if you would like to be added to, or taken off, the list. In the meantime, feel free to enroll in courses now as you are the first people to receive my 2006 course schedule. I've listed staple courses below, as well as new offerings. Call or write if you have questions!"

*Cody Lundin, Founder, Director, Aboriginal Living Skills School, LLC  
P.O. Box 3064  
Prescott, AZ 86302  
928-713-1651*

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

There are lots of folks out there who need to know of our existence and would be happy to become involved. So please get the word out. Let your friends and neighbors know that YTA is here working to provide an outdoor recreational opportunity that benefits people of all ages.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members who have joined us within the past few months:

Aaron & Natasha Casteel  
Susan Brook & Chris Smith  
Yavapai Horsemen's Association  
David & Karen Fizzell  
Vernon & Kathee Johnson  
Robert Snyder  
Fred Kraps  
Frank Sinnett

## **FOREST SERVICE TRAIL SUMMIT**

Several YTA members attended the Trail Summit held Sept. 29 at the Cortez office of the PNF. Alan Quan, PNF Supervisor, Ernie del Rio, Bradshaw District Ranger and Bruce Fahrni, Recreation Team Leader addressed the group of non-motorized and motorized trail users. Dorothy Baxter took notes. The purpose was to brainstorm on a process to integrate and accomplish priority trails work across jurisdictions and see if enough interest existed among user groups to form a coalition to promote and accomplish this work.

There is concern about the lack of trail maintenance, partly because the forest service budget has been cut considerably and they need help. It was suggested that a coalition of trail users get together, including various governmental agencies to come up with a plan that will coordinate efforts.

The next meeting is November 2, 6-8 pm at SamHill Warehouse, 232 N. Granite St., Prescott.

YTA MEMBERS INTERESTED IN REPRESENTING US IN THE COALITION, PLEASE CALL JAN AT 445-2942. We will discuss our involvement and ideas at the Nov. 17 YTA meeting.

*—Jan Alfano*

## **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR TRAIL BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Learn trail design, building and maintenance for non-motorized trails from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew . They travel throughout the U.S. teaching others how to build ecologically and socially sustainable trails for hiker, equestrian and bicycle use. Join them and other trail users for a morning of classroom learning, fun, and an afternoon of hands-on practice.

The trail school is on Nov 5th: 8:30 a.m.-noon with a classroom session at Yavapai College, Room 223 (upstairs at the new library Building 19). A free lunch will be provided from noon-1pm.

After lunch the group will head out for hands-on trail work from about 1-5pm. The most likely site will be a new section of PNF Trail #332 that will connect the railroad grade at Iron Springs Rd to the Granite Basin area trails.

The Trail School is free to participants, but we need a count for lunches. So, be sure to register for this Trail Workshop by e-mailing Keith Beesmer at [kbeesmer@msn.com](mailto:kbeesmer@msn.com) .

Sunday, Nov 6th at 10 a.m. will be a social event. Meet at Granite Basin Cayuse parking lot. Mountain bikers can ride with the IMBA Crew. Hikers and equestrians are welcome to organize an outing and meet there as well.

—Keith Beesmer  
*Prescott Cycling Club*

## **ADVERTISING FOR MEMBERS OF YTA**

Do you have a service or product you would like to advertise in our newsletter? As a member you are welcome to submit a business card size ad to us free of charge as space permits and a first come basis.

## **AQHA REGISTERED QUARTER HORSE FOR SALE**

Solid trail and ranch horse. Dark bay, strong, 16.1 hands, d.o.b. 5/15/92. Good in rocks, rough country, good around cattle, will work gates and loads easily. In Prescott Frontier Days parade for past four years. \$3,850.00. Call (928) 776-4355.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Open Space Alliance Executive Committee Meeting

First Wednesday each month

12:00 noon, 119 Grove St., Prescott (white house,  
3rd from Gurley on east side.

YTA Board Meeting

First Thursday each month

7:00pm, 119 Grove St., Prescott

Next meeting: 7:00pm, Nov. 17, same location as above

Trails Summit Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 6:00-8:00pm

Sam Hill Warehouse. Purpose is to form a multi-use trails coalition to guide development and maintenance of trails in the Prescott area.

Trail Building Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 5, 8:30am

Yavapai College, Rm 223

Register with Keith Beesmer) at [kbeesmer@msn.com](mailto:kbeesmer@msn.com).

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Yavapai County General Plan Review Draft

<http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/departments/ds/genplan/genplan.asp>

City of Prescott General Plan

<http://www.cityofprescott.net/General%20Plan/index.cfm>

Prescott Area Trail Maps, by Derek Brownlee

<http://www.sharlot.org/archives/maps/trailmaps/index.html>

Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai

<http://yavapaiosa.org/OSAMain.htm>

Yavapai Trails Association

[www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org](http://www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org)

**Here are a few random websites that might be of interest to trail enthusiasts.**

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

This is a clearinghouse of GPS locations to geocache sites throughout the world — dozens of local ones.

[www.arizonatrailspublishing.com](http://www.arizonatrailspublishing.com)

Kevin Leonard has written a book on horseback trails and trips. This site explains it all.

[www.swlink.net/~ttidym/hiking](http://www.swlink.net/~ttidym/hiking)

One of my favorite sites with links to all kinds of hiking links.

[www.azsrp.com/SRPhike.htm](http://www.azsrp.com/SRPhike.htm)

A gazillion links to stuff on hiking in Arizona.

[www.trails.com](http://www.trails.com)

Links to 717 trail descriptions.

## YTA PLANS FOR NEW WEBSITE

We recently welcomed **Aaron Casteel** as a new YTA member. We are doubly blessed in having him volunteer to launch a website, [www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org](http://www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org), for YTA. This will allow us to keep our members and all non-motorized trail enthusiasts abreast of current trail news.

To make this work, we need your participation by way of articles, pictures, and general trail news. Please contact Aaron at [lucky38@cableone.net](mailto:lucky38@cableone.net).

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in other groups \_\_\_\_\_

How do you use trails (horseback, bike, hike)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have time or skills to contribute? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_ Want to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Application Fee Amt. \_\_\_\_\_

Application Fee: annual \$12.00 individual/family; \$24.00 organization/business

Clip this coupon and send to: **Yavapai Trails Association P.O. Box 403 Prescott AZ 86302**

**Yavapai Trails**

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**P. O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302**

