

# Trail Tracks

Fall 2008

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the newly elected president of the Yavapai Trails Association I am honored to be continuing the in the footsteps of those before me who set the tone and built the reputation of our organization. The purpose of the YTA, as stated in our Bylaws, is to preserve, protect and develop non-motorized trails in Yavapai County. While being straightforward in it's wording, that statement provides opportunities to shape our communities' futures with a trail system that not only benefits local trail users, but enhances tourism and economic development.

The first item on my agenda is to define the projects we need to dedicate ourselves to. It is improbable to work on every trail project out there, so we should narrow these projects to those that are important to our membership, have the greatest benefit to the community or are critical in nature due to pending development.

The second item on my agenda is to get our membership involved in these projects. I would like to do this by setting up project committees where members could work on those projects closest to their hearts without the burden of all that YTA is involved in.

Over the next few meetings the Board of Directors will be putting together this list of projects. After that is completed the membership will be sent a letter containing this list with the opportunity to volunteer to help on any of these projects and also suggest others that

we may have overlooked.

One other item that YTA might be able to be part of is the stewardship group that is being formed as a result of the Prescott National Forest's visioning process. This group of folks felt it was important to keep the Prescott National Forest focused on what important items came out of that process. The group is still developing, however as it begins to take shape, YTA could be a part of their success.

— Rob Hehlen



Rob Hehlen

## Our Mission

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Yavapai Trails Association is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and developing recreational, non-motorized trails. We are an all-volunteer group that represents the interests of hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

YTA evolved from the Yavapai County Trail Advisory Committee appointed by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors in 1989. One of the chief reasons for forming was to find ways to prevent the loss of access to existing trails as the county becomes increasingly urban.

There was also a need to help individual communities develop and coordinate their trail systems and to work closely with developers and others to secure new trails and maintain continued access to existing trails.

We are a non-profit corporation with federal 501(c)3 designation, and our operating expenses are funded by dues and donations. We are supported by many other organizations and recognized by the cities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, as well as Yavapai County, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state of Arizona.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Beginning with the winter issue of this newsletter, YTA is inviting businesses, non-profits organizations, or other groups to submit to us business card sized ads. The fee will be \$25 per issue. The ads will be randomly placed throughout the newsletter. We ask that the ads be print-ready as hard copy or digital file. For more information, please contact YTA at the address or phone number listed below. Ad copy may be sent by e-mail to [r.smith@earthlink.net](mailto:r.smith@earthlink.net) in GIF or JPG format

## Yavapai Trails Association

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### Officers

Rob Hehlen, President  
Joyce Makin, Vice Pres.  
Jim Pessin, Treasurer  
Carol Stafford, Secretary

### Board of Directors

Christan Jan  
Carolyn Mason  
Cathy Schultz  
Nigel Reynolds  
Ron Smith

### Committees

Historic Trail Committee,  
Nigel Reynolds, Chair  
Newsletter & Website, Ron  
Smith, Chair

Please send questions,  
comments, and sugges-  
tions to the editor, at:  
[r.smith@earthlink.net](mailto:r.smith@earthlink.net)

### Contact Us

Yavapai Trails Association  
P.O. Box 403  
Prescott, AZ 86302

### Join Us!

If you are not yet a member of YTA, we welcome you to join us in active participation. We have many different projects requiring a variety of skills. We need help with everything from making phone calls to constructing trails. Individual/family memberships are only \$15 a year, and organizational/business memberships are only \$30 a year. Please keep in mind also that all monetary

## Bike Event to Benefit Prescott Circle trail

The Prescott Cycle Club (PCC), a YTA member organization, has chosen to share the proceeds from their upcoming (September 21<sup>st</sup>) event to benefit the further development of the **Prescott Circle Trail**. The event is the **Jerry Doss Memorial Skull Valley Loop Challenge**. Last year PCC raised \$10,000 for the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary and decided this year to Yavapai Trails Association and the Prescott Circle Trail as a second charity to donate funds to. This event has grown substantially each year and is expected to have 25% more participants than last year.

We can probably give credit to YTA board member Nigel Reynolds for PCC's decision to add the Circle Trail as a beneficiary of the event. Last winter he gave an excellent presentation to PCC about the Circle Trail Project.

Here is a chance to show our gratitude to PCC for their decision to help our cause by helping them run a great event. Even an hour or two will greatly be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed during the following dates and places:

**Raffle committee:** Sept. 10-21, Cindy Alward, Chair

**Food Donations & Set Up for**

**Support Stations:** Sept. 19-20, Joan Nickels, Chair

Someone is needed to collect donations from groceries, purchase food/water, and organize supplies for SVLC stops.

**Support Station Volunteers - Day of Event**

**Skull Valley Café - 7:15 - 9:45**

**Peebles Valley Mini Mart - 8:00 - 11:30**

**Wilhoit Grocery Store - 8:30 - 1:00**

**Water Stop at Kirkland Junction - 7:00 - 11:00**

### **Mechanical Support:**

Volunteers are needed to contact Ironclad Bicycles, Bikesmith, High Gear Bile Shop in Prescott and the Bicycle Source in Prescott Valley to secure mechanical support vehicles and coordinate route coverage.

### **Transport vehicles**

Need trucks, vans, or cars with bike racks to transport riders off course if needed on Event Day

### **Vendor Coordinator**

Contact/coordinate with vendors that elect to set up in start/finish area

**Rider Check-in** - (as they return from ride) Day of Event: 9:00 - 2:30  
T-shirt sales/Raffle (at finish area)

To Volunteer for this event, please contact Cindy Alward 445-0636; [highgear5@msn.com](mailto:highgear5@msn.com) or Karen Warrick 713-9811; [kwarrick@cableone.net](mailto:kwarrick@cableone.net) and CC me at [prescottrob@qwest.net](mailto:prescottrob@qwest.net)

For lots more information about this event, check the PCC website at [www.prescottcycling.org](http://www.prescottcycling.org)

Thank you for your continued support of YTA.



*Rider, hiker, biker team at NTD event*

## Fund Raiser for Prescott Circle Trail

Yavapai Trails Associations' 3rd annual National Trails Day Fund Raiser was a great success, producing over \$800 in entry fees in support of the Prescott Circle Trail Fund. We had 13 complete teams and all the participants had a good time.

Following the relay, YTA several awards: Eric Smith, City of Prescott Trails Superintendent, received the Presidents Award for his work on trails; Rob Hehlen the Trail Advocate of the Year award for promoting the Prescott Circle Trail; and the "Over The Hill Gang" was recognized and given hats with their name, for their continuing efforts on trail maintenance. All of us appreciate the work these people do in keeping trails open and usable.

YTA would like to extend a special thanks to our event sponsors: Active Life Physical Therapy, Arizona Tile, Golden Insurance Services, Prescott Plastic Surgery, Manzanita Outdoors, New Frontiers Natural Foods, Ogg's Hogan, Prescott Saddle Club and Kent Ward, DO.

YTA would also like to thank our volunteers and participants, many of whom have returned each year to give us their support.

We wish to thank the Jeep Posse for generously giving of their time and expertise in keeping our National Trails Day event safe.

We all share a common bond in keeping our beautiful Prescott Trails non- motorized, open and usable.

— *Joyce Makin*

## Circle Trail Threatened By Proposed PUSD High School Site

At a recent meeting between the Prescott Unified School District (PUSD) and Prescott City Council, PUSD presented a map of five possible sites for a new proposed high school. All five sites were located in North Prescott, two on State Trust Land, two on private land and one on BLM land, the latter being currently leased to the City of Prescott as part of Pioneer Park. PUSD's hope was that the City would relinquish their contract to lease 110 acres of the BLM lease so that that lease could be transferred to PUSD for their high school location. The reason behind their thinking is that BLM leases the land for \$2.00 per acre per year, making the land virtually free to the City. The other sites all have million dollar price tags .

During the meeting, both parties were saying that no recreational or other developments exist on this parcel and that there are no plans to put anything on it. However, the Legacy Trail, which is part of the Prescott Circle Trail, runs across this parcel of land. When this was brought up at the meeting, city manager, Steve Norwood replied "OK, there's a trail." While that was discouraging, after the meeting a couple of people from the PUSD board came up to me and asked more about it. They offered the suggestion that if the City does work out a deal with PUSD (the City would like some sort of compensation for relinquishing the land), that the trail could be part of the plan. One of my concerns is that the nature of the trail

would dramatically change because the land would have to be flattened for a school.

YTA conceived the idea for the Circle Trail in the early 90's and has worked with the City of Prescott, Embry Riddle, Forest Service, Game and Fish and Developers ever since to make this project a reality. The work continues to complete the missing sections of the trail. It would be a shame to go through all that effort to lose a section that is already built.

This is one of those time where we need to flex the arm of our organization. We need to work with both PUSD and the City to make them understand the importance of the Prescott Circle Trail. We need to either convince City officials to keep the land as it is, work out a new acceptable location for the trail if the land should change hands and, if that happens, see if PUSD would be willing to help defray the costs of other trail sections

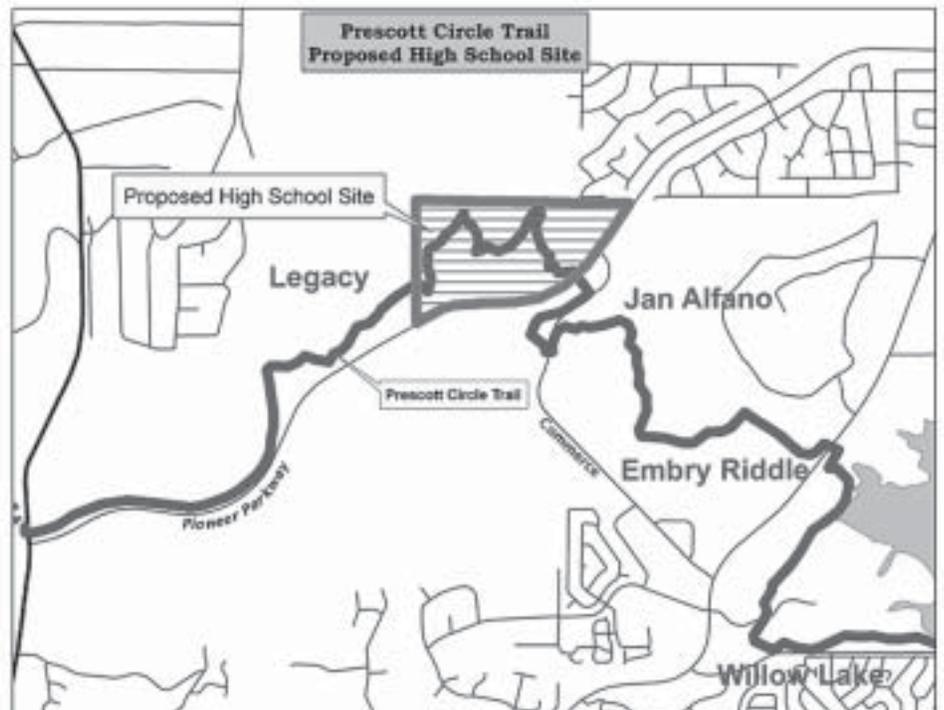
that still need to be constructed.

Write to the School Board and City Council and let them know that this location may not be the best location for the school. It's a City Park and natural open space and a most important part of the community trail system. Contact information can be found at the following two websites:

[www.prescottschools.com/gov\\_bd.htm](http://www.prescottschools.com/gov_bd.htm)

[www.cityofprescott.net/leadership/](http://www.cityofprescott.net/leadership/)

— Rob Hehlen



## Another Huge Granite Dells Purchase Approved

***“This property brings into public ownership a magnificent piece of the granite landscape that has been Prescott’s hallmark ...”***

On August 28 the Prescott City Council unanimously approved the purchase of an 80-acre parcel from the James Family Trust. Daily Courier reporter Cindy Barks wrote on the following Thursday a detailed account of events leading up to this purchase. This property brings into public ownership a magnificent piece of the granite landscape that has been Prescott’s hallmark and adds another piece to the jigsaw puzzle of parcels of land that comprise the Dells and Granite Creek areas. Escrow is scheduled to close on November 15.

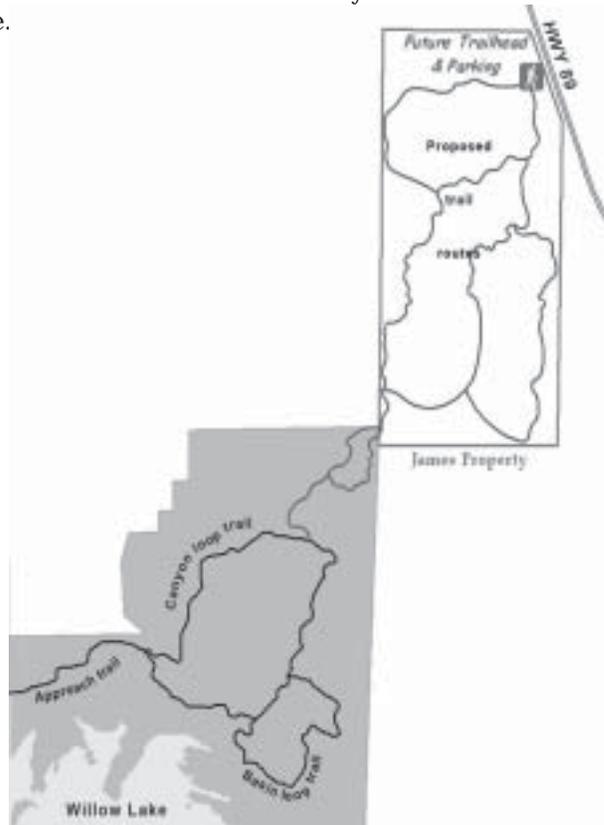
The Courier article, while factually excellent also presented a map that gave no clue to the location of this property in relation to other City-owned land. I have written this short article to tell something about the importance of this site to the future of Prescott’s outdoor and trails recreation program.

This parcel is located on the west side of Hwy. 89 and is contiguous with City-owned land northeast of Willow Lake where the City’s volunteer crew, “The Over The Hill Gang,” recently completed almost two miles of new hiking and biking trails. Now there is more opportunity to extend those trails to the north beyond the immediate vicinity of Willow Lake.

— Ron Smith



Chris Hosking, City of Prescott Trails Manager leads group exploring newly developed trails near Willow Lake



Map showing connections from city owned land to James Family Trust parcel approved for purchase by City of Prescott

## Featured Hike: The Vultee Arch Trail

The cooler weather of September can be a great time to try some lower elevation trails in the Sedona area. Hikers are richly rewarded along this trail by the stark beauty, color, and textures of the sedimentary rock cliffs that form the very edge of the Mogollon Rim and the Colorado Plateau.

Vultee Arch is modest compared with the great arches of the Moab, Utah region, but is a pleasant surprise at the end of a 2-mile walk up Sterling Canyon.

Arches, as opposed to natural bridges, are formed not by running streams, but by the action of frost, heat, and water eroding unstable layers of sandstone and the calcium cement that holds them together. The action of these elements causes rounded slabs of rock to fall from unsupported layers above, leaving dramatic fins and arches.

The grand red rock cliffs of this region that make Sedona famous were deposited some 320 to 255 million years ago. Most of the red sandstones seen in Sterling Canyon, and most of the Sedona area, are of the Schnebly Hill Formation. The sandstone layers represent a record of large, sandy, wind-driven coastal dunes. These dunes in lower parts of this formation may have been formed during migration in ocean currents of the great Pedregosa Sea.

Contrasting with these bright orange sandstones is the lighter colored Coconino Sandstone that overlays it. This rock zone represents evidence of a great sandy desert, perhaps on the scale of the Sahara, and by this

geologic time, a long ways from any sea.

From Prescott, the shortest route to Sedona is via Mingus and Hwy. 89A. You can go by way of Hwy. 69 and 169, although it is about 25 to 30 miles farther. After passing Jerome, follow the signs for Hwy. 89A to Cottonwood. A couple of miles south of Cottonwood, 89A crosses the Verde River and turns east to Sedona. At approximately 59 miles from Prescott, turn left in West Sedona at the traffic light onto the Dry Creek Road. Then drive for 2 more miles on pavement to the Dry Creek Road turnoff to the right. This is a well-marked junction and indicates a distance of 5 miles to Vultee Arch Trail (actually only 4.3 miles).

The road from here is dirt and has a rough surface that will rattle your teeth. It is not crowned, however, and is passable to all vehicles. The Vultee Arch TR #22 heads east from where the road ends. Another trail, the Dry Creek Trail, goes north from here, following Dry Creek.

Parking requires a Red Rock Pass of \$5.00 unless you have a Golden Age Permit, in which case all you need is to display the permit on your dashboard. There is a self-serve "kiosk" at this trailhead should you need to purchase the \$5.00 permit.

Since the trail is within the Red Rock - Secret Mountain Wilderness, bicycling is not permitted.

The lower part of the trail stays along the wash bottom in Sterling Canyon. It is smooth and wide, under a canopy of Arizona cypress. This is an unusual stand of trees, mainly because of their density. Their exfoliating bark, hanging in tatters, creates a vari-colored mosaic.

Looking to the south along the base of the white cliffs, you can see stands of tall Douglas firs, at elevations of only about 5,000 feet. Here in cliff shadow, the sun seldom shines and cool moist shade allows these mesic trees to thrive.

At 1.5 miles, you reach a junction with the Sterling Pass Trail. This latter trail continues to a saddle and then drops within about 1.5 miles to Oak Creek Canyon in the vicinity of the Manzanita Campground. The Vultee Arch trail goes left at this junction, and then within about 0.1 miles reaches a rocky viewpoint of the arch. A variety of brushy trails continue from here, some going directly to the arch, another continuing up the canyon. This latter trail within a short distance becomes almost impassable.

— Ron Smith



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Individual or Organization Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

What related organizations do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

If you did not receive this newsletter in the mail, we would like to know where you picked up this copy:

Retail Store \_\_\_\_\_ Public Facility (e.g. Library) \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Fee Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to: YTA

If you would like membership in the YTA Historic Trails Committee, please check here (no added fee) \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Fee: Annual \$15.00 for individual/Family; \$25 Organization/Business

Please clip out this coupon and send to Yavapai Trails Association, P.O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302

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Prescott, AZ 86302

*A coalition of non-motorized trail users*

