

**Yavapai Trails
Association**

P. O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302



TRAIL TRACKS

A Publication Of Yavapai Trails Association

April 2005

Officers

Ron Smith, Pres.	445-6678
Derek Brownlee, Secty.	778-9137
Jim Pessin, Treas.	771-2707

Board Of Directors

Jan Alfano, Past Pres.	445-2942
Tom Fraser	772-8173
Nigel Reynolds	717-2466
Carol Stafford	445-8975
Bob Sutton	777-8943

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.

Notes from the President

Greetings !!

Here are a few pictures to show a few activities that YTA has been involved with. Please take special note of the inside article on National Trails Day, June 4. It's a great chance for YTA members to see some of your Board in action as well to give a hand in a worthwhile trail building activity.

— Ron Smith, President



Volunteers from Yavapai Exceptional Industries assist in trail maintenance of PNF Trail #346.



Scouts present colors at dedication of Trail #346 and volunteer recognition ceremony, Nov. 2004

A WINTER'S TALE

Snowy Visit to Wolf Creek Falls

Winter can be a great time for hiking. Here's a hike I took after our heavy snows in the first week of this year, though it's a great hike in any season. Next winter, maybe you can experience a walk through the beauty of virgin snow under trees covered with white drapery, accentuated by a brilliant blue sky.



I drove south on the Senator Highway, cleared of the previous day's snow by a plow. However, when the blacktop ended just past the Sky Y camp, so did the plowing — with a mound across the road left by the final push. Others had gone before me, so I continued, soon turning right down the road to Wolf Creek Campground, officially YC 101 but there is no sign to designate it. I was now driving in fairly deep ruts that diminished to a single vehicle after the turn off to Pine Summit Camp. Soon this one vehicle had bravely(?) turned off into the woods and I was

forging my way down YC 101 through deep undisturbed snow. I had taken precautions: my wife had written details of my hiking plans and I have a high clearance 4WD vehicle - I took snow chains and a shovel in reserve! I parked in the entrance of Wolf Creek Campground, careful not to block the gate — by habit, not necessity. I also turned my vehicle around, going back and forth so my exit route was flattened.

My goal was Wolf Creek Falls, at the far end of a loop. I started off going left on the campground roads, soon turning right between a picnic table (right) and restrooms (left). This was Forest Road 74 — now deteriorated to more of a trail than a road. The snow was about ten inches deep, and I had chosen to wear Wellington boots, hoping to keep my jeans dry. I soon found that the deeper snow sometimes topped my "wellies" and I was continually trying to scoop it out with my gloved finger before it melted. FR 74 crosses Wolf Creek almost immediately, which was flowing swiftly from the melting snow. I was able to wade across with my boots into a winter wonderland. The tall ponderosas contrasted with the shorter pinons, junipers and emory oaks, and I passed huge boulders capped with a thick layer of snow. There were quite a few tracks — deer, rabbits and rodents — but no other humans. The road drops down to the junction with trail 384 (about 1/4 mile from the campground) where I turned right.

Many of the younger trees along this trail were bowed down with the wet snow. Sometimes I could go round these blockades, at other times I carefully pulled the tree down further and let it spring up while I sprang back. This scattered the snow from its limbs in all directions, helping the tree regain its normal posture and allowing me passage. I had to negotiate a number of puddles



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**

YTA Ballot for Board Members, APRIL 2005

The two top names on this ballot are YTA Board Members whose terms have expired and they are running for reelection. The third is a new candidate. You may vote for any or all of them. The by-laws permit as many as 15 members to serve on the YTA Board of Directors. Those running for a two year term are:

Tom Fraser Bob Sutton

Frank Sinnett

You may vote for write-in candidates who are YTA members and have agreed to serve on the Board.

Please check the box for each name you want on the Board. Clip and return your ballot to: **Yavapai Trails Association, P.O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302**, no later than May 15.

If you would like to serve on the Board, please call Ron Smith at 445-6678, or any other Board member.

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

Bike to Work with the Mayor
May 13, 7:30 a.m. Meet at old grocery store parking lot
on West Gurley

Annual Granite Creek Cleanup
May 7, 7:30 a.m.
Granite Creek Park

National Bike Month Celebration
May 15, 10:00 a.m.
Family fun ride in downtown Prescott on the
Greenways trail system

National Trails Day Events
Trail building project, June 3-5, Salida Gulch
Check VOAZ.org for information and signup.

Willow & Watson Lakes Dedication
June 11, 10:00 a.m., New boat ramp at Watson Lake

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>

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

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

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

www.swlink.net/~ttidyman/hiking
One of my favorite sites with links to all kinds of hiking links.

www.azsrp.com/SRPhike.htm
A gazillion links to stuff on hiking in Arizona.

www.trails.com
Links to 717 trail descriptions.

thinly covered with ice, and a couple of flowing brooks.

About 1/2 mile from the junction, the trail bends left at an old wire corral. Shortly thereafter, the trail widens into a clearing with a variety of man-made debris, left from when this site could be accessed by vehicles. To continue back to YC 101, an old road exits from this clearing at the far right end and soon crosses Wolf Creek. Instead, I continued straight on, down a small drainage to the creek, which I wanted to cross to reach the falls. The crossing was tricky, and I misjudged the depth, resulting in my left boot capturing a cupful of icy water. Undeterred, I found some rocks to aid my crossing, onto a narrow overgrown trail that I had explored in warmer weather. I tried to remove my boot to empty the water, but it just wouldn't come off, so I ignored it. One view of the falls can be reached by bushwhacking along the side of the stream onto solid granite. Great care must be taken on either side of the falls because centuries of floods have polished the rock to a slippery smoothness.

I also wanted to view the falls from below, so I retraced my steps to the narrow trail and continued down for a way until I judged I could penetrate the trees and bushes on the left, back to the creek. This was a challenge in the deep snow and steep slope, but the eventual viewpoint was worth the effort. The water, stained a light brown from the pine needles, roared down in a two step cascade over the native granite. Unfortunately the clouds had rolled in, so my photos were bland.

Now it was time to return to the creek-crossing above the falls, and reach the old road that left the clearing, as described earlier. I hurried as fast as I could up the track to YC 101, having to climb over a huge fallen ponderosa, killed by the drought or pine beetles and felled by a windstorm. The county road was about 1/4 mile from the creek, and there were no fresh ruts. After another 20 minutes I was back at my SUV. It then took 15 minutes of hard work to remove my boots, aided by my shovel pushing down on the heel lip. I drove home in wet socks, the heater going full blast and the windows open. Another memorable hike!

If you decide to hike a trail in the snow, please choose one you are familiar with. Every-

thing looks different with snow obliterating the route of the trail, making it easy to take the wrong path. Fortunately, if you get lost, you can retrace your footprints to safety.

If you try the above loop in better weather, it won't take you very long. For more exercise, you can take various side trails to the Hassayampa River. The first option is to continue down FR 74, then right onto FR 74A. Second is to turn left (south) off trail 384 onto an old road about 1/4 mile from FR 74 (just past a lonely trail 384 sign) — this old road is not signed. Third is to turn left up another old road at the far end of the clearing mentioned above. Lastly, continue across Wolf Creek onto the narrow overgrown trail, and continue down it past the falls, hidden off to your left. All of these trails are shown on Derek Brownlee's excellent maps (go to www.sharlot.org/archives/maps/trailmaps/index.html) with the exception of the last one — about the only trail I have found that Derek hasn't! I expect him to fix that soon.

If you are adventurous and like loops rather than out-and-back the same way, you can create your own loops by hiking along the Hassayampa, using two of the above side trails for access. There is no trail along the river, so you will have to scramble in places over boulders or along inclined rocky banks, which adds some excitement. The river runs most of the year, but if it is flowing moderately or more, don't try this unless you are prepared for wet feet!

— Nigel Reynolds
Chairman, Historic Trails Committee
NigelAZ@aol.com

OPENINGS ON YTA BOARD

How about getting involved in preserving and expanding our trail systems? There are several openings on the YTA board and we welcome new members. It is always good to have fresh ideas with more input from the membership.

The Board meets the first Thursday evening of most months at 7:00 p.m. and meetings last 1½ hours. We take a month off in the summer and combine the November/December meetings, so we meet only 10 times for the year.

This is your chance to express your thoughts on what needs to be done to ensure trails in perpetuity. We have fought long and hard to be heard and are now recognized by all government agencies as the official voice for non-motorized trails. Our members have served on the Arizona State Committee on Trails; YTA is responsible for the County Master Trails Plan; and we have a member working with the county to acquire GPS map coordinates for trails. The Forest Services has agreed that YTA should be the organization representing various clubs regarding non-motorized trails.

YTA has many accomplishments, but many issues remain that need to be addressed if we are to maintain trails in good condition and with public access. Please join us on the Board — we would love to have you. You can write your name on the ballot line for write-in candidates on page 7 or even be considered for a board position at a later board meeting. Call Ron Smith at 445-6678 for more information.

SALIDA GULCH TRAIL PROJECT

On National Trails Day, June 4, 2005, several organizations are combining efforts to create a brand new trail in the Salida Gulch area north of Lynx Lake. This is a chance for you as a member of YTA to become involved in a tangible project that will add a significant link to our existing trail system.



Board members, Tom Fraser and Bob Sutton work with group of volunteers on a local trail.

Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona (VOAZ) is a statewide volunteer group of trained trail builders that are bringing their talents to the Prescott area. On National Trails Day they will be provide about 70 volunteer trail builders (both local and imported) onto the Prescott National Forest. They will partner with REI, and the Prescott National Forest to begin construction of a new trail adja-

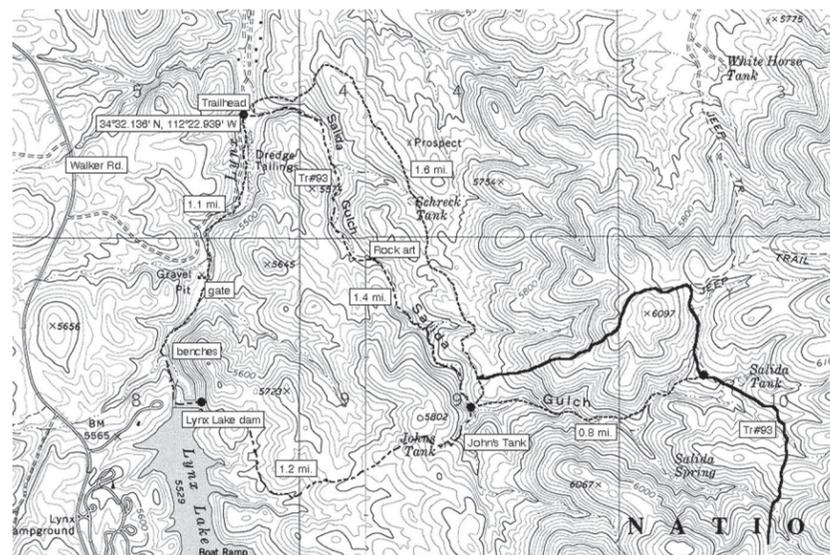
cent to Salida Gulch.

The new trail will replace a trail (Trail #93) located in the stream bed and thereby reduce the foot traffic in a sensitive riparian area that is also an endangered petroglyph site. Saturday will be the main work day, although the entire event will span three days, June 3-5. About 50 volunteers are needed in addition to those provided by VOAZ.

Yavapai Trails Association will be a partner in this effort for the main work day on Saturday June 4. YTA has also donated \$200 to pay for lunches that REI will prepare and serve to the volunteers. Furthermore, board member, Tom Frazer has agreed corral a second First Responder to provide first-aid services if needed.

We need volunteers to help on Saturday. Here's a chance to join friends and make new acquaintances in a tangible effort to improve our local trail system. If you would like to help on this project, **VOAZ is asking volunteers to register on their website at www.VOAZ.org**. Check this site for current information by goint to Events Calendar. If you don't have internet access, please, call Bob Sutton at 777-8943 if you are willing to help.

— Ron Smith



Salida Gulch area Trail #93 in wash bottom. This trail will be closed and the new trail constructed adjacent to the wash. Map courtesy of Ron Smith

NEW TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE

A couple of exciting new trail maps have recently been published and are available to anyone willing to track them down. Here's more information about each and how you might obtain a copy.

Bicycling Opportunity Map

Hot off the press, this map is a colorful display of hiking and bicycling areas around Prescott area. The City of Prescott in cooperation with the Prescott Bicycle Advisory Committee has produced the map with funding provided by a number of individual, nonprofit organization, and business sponsors. The map shows designated bike routes, striped bike lanes, and dirt trails.

The designated bike routes are recommended to help riders move more safely on the town's busiest streets where they share the road with vehicular traffic.

The dirt trails recommended are but a sampling of the numerous single-track trails within the Prescott Basin. They comprise ones deemed suitable for mountain bike riders with a modicum of skill and knowledge. Ten of these trails are indexed on the map with corresponding descriptions on the map's reverse side. All of these trails are, of course, both popular and less well known hiking routes. They are a combination of trails constructed by the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, and Prescott National Forest.

Trails within the City of Prescott will be identified on the ground with the Mile-High Trail System logo, although all trails are color-coded the same on the map.

You can obtain a **free copy from the City of Prescott Parks and Recreation Dept., 125 N. Arizona St., Prescott. Most local outdoor recreation stores and bicycle shops also carry the maps.** We would urge you to support those businesses that have sponsored the map's publication.

— Ron Smith

Historic Trails of Arizona

Nigel Reynolds, YTA board member and Chairman of YTA's Historic Trails Committee recently announced the publication of *Historic Trails of Arizona*. This is a map of some of the trade and travel routes that zig-zagged across our state beginning with the earliest Spanish explorers. On the map's reverse side there are interesting photos, paintings, and historical descriptions of about 15 of these routes and 24 references to published literature on the subject.

To quote from part of the introduction to this text, "Today, a few vestiges of that stalwart past still remain, wagon tracks embedded in rock surfaces, iron traces left by metal wagon wheels, ruts and swales worn over time, bypassed now by modern vehicles."



Historic trail relic, a crushed coffee pot and solder-top can. Photo by Nigel Reynolds

This map was produced by a group of volunteers from many fields of endeavor, all dedicated to protecting pieces of Arizona's historic past. They are members of the Historic Trails Subcommittee of ASCOT (Arizona State Committee on Trails). The map is an official publication of Arizona State Parks.

For more information about this brochure and map, contact the Trails Coordinator at Arizona State Parks (602-542-4174). Or, go to the following website: www.azstateparks.com/partnerships/trails/historictrails.html. I checked out this site and found the entire brochure on several web pages. Sharlot Hall Museum also has copies of the brochure.

— Ron Smith