

# Trail Tracks

Spring 2007

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## Events and Sponsors Added to Trails Day Celebration

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28, because that's when Yavapai Trails Association and the City of Prescott are hosting the local celebration of National Trails Day at the Brownlow trailhead at Pioneer Park in Prescott.

According to Susan Brook, YTA's special events chairperson, "The morning event will be the Second Annual Trail Rally FUNd-raiser, where hikers, mountain bikers, and trail riders team up to win prizes, have fun, and raise money for Prescott's trails."

Registration for the rally will be from 8 to 9 a.m., and, according to YTA President Jan Alfano, "This is not a race, and horses are limited to a walk or



trot. There is absolutely no need for speed, as the randomly drawn numbered tickets are the key to winning prizes."

New on the schedule of events is the awarding of the

first-ever YTA Trails Volunteer of the Year award at noon.

In the afternoon, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition will host a free workshop on map and compass reading and other basic wilderness navigation skills. The workshop will focus primarily on using map and compass for navigation and orienteering. They will also conduct a treasure hunt. Pre-registration is not required for this workshop.

Sponsors for this year's event include Shuttle "U", Manzanita Outdoor, Prescott Plastic Surgery, Prescott Saddle Club, Golden Insurance Services, Ogg's Hogan, and Arizona Tile.

*For more information, including registration forms for the rally, go to the YTA website.*

## Prescott's Open Space: An Update

In the spring of 2000, Prescott voters approved an extension to the 1 percent sales tax and dedicated revenues from that tax to street improvements and the cost of acquiring open space for public use. Prior to the voter initiative, and on condition that it passes, the Prescott City Council passed a resolution that allocated \$40.7 million to the acquisition of open space. There has been much bad press over the last year regarding the use of that dedicated fund. Much of the criticism has centered on the apparent lack of progress in actually acquiring open space.

To further the progress on open space acquisition, in July 2003, Mayor Rowle Simmons

appointed members to a newly created Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee. I have been a member of that committee since its inception. The committee's primary task is to investigate opportunities for land acquisition in critically important areas with respect to their scenic, biological, riparian, economic, cultural, recreational, and other community values. On the basis of a complex set of criteria, we recommend both acquisitions and strategies for acquisitions to the mayor and city council.

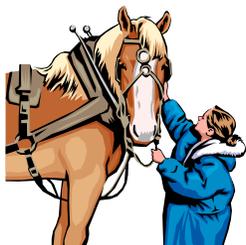
Even where critical properties are no longer available for pur-

see **Open Space**, page 6



Dr. Carl Tomoff instructs children on vegetation at the Nature Center.

- Photo by Ron Smith



*"I am doubly blessed that they all get along and that every one of my students is always cheering for the other."*

## Balow Stables Takes AzRHA March Madness Show by Storm

In March, the Arizona Reining Horse Association held its first National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) affiliate horse show of the 2007 season at Westworld in Scottsdale. Riders came from all parts of the state to compete for money and prizes, but at the end of the weekend, it was Ben Balow Training Stables, of Prescott, and his team of 13 non-pro riders that took the AzRHA March Madness Show by storm.

The event began on Friday March 2nd, with the Green as Grass class starting the show. This class is designed for riders who have never competed in an NRHA event, and there were 18 entries. When the results came in Jordan Willette, who is also one of Ben Balow's youth riders, and her horse Doc placed second, with Bill Wood placing third. First-timer Debbie Farmer also had a strong showing and got through her run penalty-free.

Next up were the Open classes. The contestants in this class are predominantly professional trainers who train reining horses for a living. With 33 total entries, Ben Balow, the

head trainer and owner of Ben Balow Training Stables, rode Christine Lytle's five-year-old mare Shesa Stylin Chic to first place and a \$250 prize in the NRHA-added Intermediate Open, as well as placing second in the Open overall. In addition to prize money, Balow was presented with a trophy plaque for his winning run.

Balow also rode Susan Nibley's four-year-old gelding Turn on the Juice to first place in the Snaffle Bit/Hackamore Open Reining class, winning prize money and another trophy plaque for his efforts.

Mary Morris, Balow's assistant trainer, tied in second and third place in the Rookie Professional class, where first-year professionals compete before entering the Open Professional classes. Morris rode Susan Nibley's five-year-old gelding Whizard and Christine Lytle's five-year-old gelding Howdy Dun It.

Day two began with the Rookie class, with 33 riders competing and Balow students walking off with several prizes: Darleen Martin won first place on SR Smart Money; Kelly Raymond second place on Claude

Reins; Darleen Martin third place on Lenas Flyin Delta CT; Jeremy Morris fourth place on Cuttin Jewels; and Theresa Friedman sixth place on Poco Socks. In the Prime Time Rookie class, Christine Lytle rode for fourth place on Howdy Dun It.

The show wrapped up the day with its Open, Intermediate, and Limited Non-Pro class competitions. These are traditionally the toughest classes, but long-time Balow student Susan Nibley rode away with a third place on her gelding Whizard.

Asked about his students' success, Balow said, "I just feel fortunate to have such a great group of dedicated riders. I am doubly blessed that they all get along and that every one of my students is always cheering for the other."

*Ben Balow Training Stables is located in Prescott at The American Ranch. If you would like more information on Ben Balow Training Stables call 602.989.2098 or email to:*

[azreiner@commspeed.net](mailto:azreiner@commspeed.net)

- Renee Loeffort

## Yavapai Trails Association

### Officers

Jan Alfano, President  
Ron Smith, Vice President  
Carol Stafford, Secretary  
Jim Pessin, Treasurer

### Contact Us

Yavapai Trails Association  
P.O. Box 403  
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[yavapaitrailsassociation.org](http://yavapaitrailsassociation.org)

### Board of Directors

Nigel Reynolds, Historic Trails and Outreach  
Bob Sutton, Trail Maintenance  
Nancy Wolin, Yavapai Horseman's Association  
Cathy Schultz, Central Arizona Trails Partnership  
Joyce Mackin, Prescott Saddle Club  
Carolyn Mason, Senior Olympics  
Mike Druckenmiller, Communications  
Kathy Lopez, Volunteer Coordinator

### Committees

Susan Brook, Special Events  
Derek Brownlee, Cartographer  
Irene Cox, Prescott Outings Club  
Rob Hehlen, Forest Service Representative

*Please send questions, comments, and suggestions to the editor, Mike Druckenmiller, at [mike@banningcreek.com](mailto:mike@banningcreek.com)*



## Historic Trails Committee Explores Ehrenberg Road

You may have seen the article in the February 2 edition of the **Daily Courier** that described remnants of the Hardyville Road along Walnut Creek that was discovered by the Historic Trails Committee. The road was built in 1864 to supply Prescott and Fort Whipple by freight wagon.

The article elicited inquiries from a number of readers who were interested in the explorations made by the HTC that lead to finding this old road and the companion southern route known as the Ehrenberg Road. Both roads began at the Colorado River and ended in Prescott.

Four of these readers wanted to learn how we explore and what we find, so Tracy Devault set up an outing at the end of March -- Tracy is the HTC "trail boss" for the Ehrenberg Road. He led these four potential members, together with three current members of the

HTC, to a rugged area south of Hillside. This is where the HTC had located a section of the Ehrenberg Road a few years ago.

The "newbies" were able to see first hand the signs we look for: grooves worn into rocks by the iron-rimmed wagon wheels, swales (depressions) cut into the ground by the passing of freight wagons over many years, and different artifacts found on the ground and hiding between rocks, cacti, and other thorny plants.

After the members had found and shared various artifacts (such as solder top cans; mule and horse shoes; thick, broken dark green- and black- colored glass; worn metal parts dropped from wagons or harnesses), the newbies quickly learned to find their own artifacts and trail signs. Their discoveries elicited great excitement and satisfaction.

The location of any major artifact found was recorded by GPS, sometimes photographed, and left in place for future adventurers.

Although the members knew the route of the old road from previous visits, the road was not always immediately apparent. The roughness of the ground with its hostile plant cover does not give up evidence easily, and the new participants understood the hours it takes to find a route in an unexplored area.

We anticipate these potential members will now become full members and contribute to the discovery of more sections of these two historic roads.

- Nigel Reynolds



A crushed coffee pot found on historic Ehrenberg Road.

- Photo by Nigel Reynolds

*"The location of any major artifact found was recorded by GPS, sometimes photographed, and left in place for future adventurers."*

## The Evolution of Yavapai County Trails Committee

In 1989, concerned with preventing the loss of recreational trails as Yavapai County became increasingly urban, the Board of Supervisors formed an advisory committee that evolved into Yavapai Trails Association.

One of YTA's first challenges was to draft a plan for the benefit of hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians that became the Master Trails Plan when it was officially adopted in 1998.

Two years before that, and largely influenced by YTA, the County had formed a trails planning committee. As specified in the plan, this committee became the Yavapai County Trails Committee

YCTC's mission is to implement the Master Trails Plan, a comprehensive 30-page document that can be read at [www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=20440](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=20440).

[www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=20440](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=20440).

Some of the responsibilities of the committee described in the plan include: providing a map of approved trails; establishing a nominating process for the addition of new trails; working with developers and other trail organizations to define new trails and trailheads; and coordinating with government agencies and public utility companies to secure easements or rights-of-way.

YCTC is permanent committee with nine elected members, consisting of three members from each of the three supervisory districts. All are dedicated volunteers, and Spike Hicks is the current chairman.

Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly, rotating through the three districts, and they are

also attended by representatives from the county, the Prescott National Forest, YTA, and other interested parties.

YCTC presents its accomplishments periodically to the Board of Supervisors, and at the latest presentation the committee requested that the county create the new, paid position of Trails Coordinator.

The decision by the Board to accept this proposal is a significant recognition of the important part that trails play in serving the recreational needs of the community.

- Nigel Reynolds



A piece of 19th century history: a broken glass bowl found near Ehrenberg Road.

- Photo by Nigel Reynolds



### Acker Park Event

*The Friends of J.S. Acker will be partnering with the City of Prescott for two consecutive Saturday educational workshops about water harvesting (May 19) and installing low water use, native plants (May 26). Prescott area residents are encouraged to attend and learn about and even work on installation of the native plants and trees that will use harvested water. The location is the restroom at the South Virginia Street entrance of the park. Additional details will be listed at <http://www.ackerpark.org>, or call Charlene Craig at 928.771.1428.*



## Prescott Senior Olympics Equestrian Update

The Prescott Senior Olympic Summer games are now confirmed for Sunday, August 26, at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. Registration time is 8 a.m., and pre-registration is encouraged, with a pre-entry deadline of August 20.

Age groups will be combined to insure adequate competition. Medals will be awarded in age groups: 50-54, 55-59, 65-69, 70-74, and 80-plus. There will be no gender separation, and AQHA Rules will apply.

Judge Joe Pennachio will officiate.

The order of events is: Halter Class; Western Horsemanship; Western Pleasure – Walk Trot; Western Pleasure; Gaited Horse Class; Lunch Break; Trail Class (Western or English); English Horsemanship; English Pleasure – Walk Trot; English Pleasure; and Dressage Equitation.

Any and all levels of equestrian skills are welcomed to this event. Join us for a day of

fun and the opportunity to ride in the big arena at the Rodeo Grounds.

Prescott Parks and Rec will provide T-shirts and goodie bags for all registered participants -- and apples and carrots for equine participants. There event must be a minimum of 18 entries to make it a go.

For additional information, contact Parks and Rec at (928) 777-1122, ext O, or the Event Coordinator, Carolyn Mason, at (928) 636-0660.

## Prescott Saddle Club

Prescott Saddle Club is an organization dedicated to the enjoyment of horses and mules through organized activities such as trail rides, parades, educational opportunities, trails preservation, and social events centered around an equestrian theme.

In 1948, 24 horseback riding buddies, brought together by their love of horses and good horsemanship, decided that they needed a name. They wanted to share the fellowship and enjoyment of the great outdoors and the Prescott area with others, and they wanted to develop and maintain trails for everyone to enjoy. They proclaimed their group the Prescott Saddle Club.

To celebrate the formation of the club, they held a ride from downtown Prescott to the Granite Mountain Basin Lake, and upon their arrival at the lake, they were served a chuck wagon breakfast. At the club's fiftieth anniversary in 1998, they retraced the original trail from town to the lake, and breakfast was again served from a chuck wagon. This time, they also held a dinner dance to commemorate their 50 years.

As the club grew, so did the frequency of rides. Today, the club schedules rides most Saturdays year-round. Club members continue to work on maintaining trail access throughout the year, and sum-

mer time brings weekend horse camping trips, as well as other social events. The Christmas Party and Summer Social are favorites with all of the members.

From the small group in 1948, the club has grown to more than 175 members in. Prescott Saddle Club is the oldest horseback riding club in Arizona, and the vision of the founding members is shared by the current members.

*For more information, including upcoming rides and activities, ride rules, membership applications, and more access club website: [www.prescottsaddleclub.com](http://www.prescottsaddleclub.com) or call Carol Ross, President, 928.776.4761 or 928.925.0663.*

## Arizona Wilderness Coalition Team to Hold Trails Day Work Event

In another celebration of National Trails Day, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition is teaming with the U.S. Forest Service, the American Hiking Society, REI, Yavapai Trails Association, and other local businesses and outdoor groups to hold a work event in the Granite Mountain Wilderness. The event, which is centered at the Granite Mountain group campground, is scheduled from Fri-

day night, June 1, through Saturday, June 2, and departs on Sunday morning, June 3.

According to Sam Frank, Wildlands Planning Coordinator in AWC's Prescott office, "Previously, we held NTD events at areas that we felt offered a true backcountry wilderness experience, but this year we wanted to dispel the myth that wilderness areas have to be 'way out there' --

while still getting some much needed trail work done. The trail we are going to do work on is the Granite Mountain Trail (Trail No.261), and it is undoubtedly the most popular trail within the wilderness area."

More details are to follow. For more information, contact Sam Frank at 928-717-6076, or [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org).

## There's a New Girl In Town

Hi, I'm Kathy Lopez the new YTA Volunteer Coordinator. I joined YTA as a representative of Morgan Ranch Park Association.

I hope you've had a chance to visit Morgan Ranch Nature Park on Williamson Valley Road and Nancy Drive, south of Talking Rock Ranch development. The MPRA Board thought membership with YTA would be a good way for us to learn about, and contribute to, the trail community.

As Volunteer Coordinator, I developed a form to send to organizations and individuals so they can tell us everything we need to know about an event or activity.

An event could be: trail maintenance, community rec-

reation, public relations, or fund raisers. An activity could be grant writing, sign making, lobbying or public speaking.

The YTA Board will review the info and decide if the request fits into YTA's mission. Once the Board accepts responsibility for a participating in an event or activity we will send out a call for volunteers.

With the help of the Board, I gathered information about YTA members as it relates to volunteering; which I put it into a database and email group list. When volunteers are needed, members will be contacted by email, phone or in person, if we really need to twist arms.

Our first major event to test this new process will be the 2nd Annual Trail Rally

FUNd-raiser, which is part of the Prescott National Trails Day celebration. So be looking for a call, email, or knock on the door asking for your help. This should be an easy one because it's our event, it's lots of fun and it's for a good cause- US!

- **Kathy Lopez**

*Kathy Lopez lived in Chandler Ariz., in the 80's, before moving to Thousand Oaks, CA. In 2001 she and her husband, Larry, came home to roost in Williamson Valley with their 2 dogs, 20 chickens, and 9 finches. They were attracted to the area because of outdoor recreation opportunities. She volunteers for the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women,*



**Kathy Lopez and hiking companion Kelly.**

- Photo Courtesy of Kathy Lopez

*Project Wet, the juvenile detention center and is Vice Chair of the Yavapai County Board of Adjustments and Appeals. As YTA's first Volunteer Coordinator Chair, she has created and defined a valuable role in the organization.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

Unless otherwise noted, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Lopez 541-0494 [lopez1234@msn.com](mailto:lopez1234@msn.com) to volunteer.

**April 21-** 10am-4pm manning a table at **Earth Day in Granite Creek Park** in Prescott.

Granite Creek Clean-up 8-10 am,  
**Contact** Libby Majors, 776-8781

**April 23:** 7pm – 9pm, **Circle Trail Nomination into State Trails System.** Duties include: putting data together like distance, difficulty, etc for sections of the trail, collecting plan information; and documenting public support. (2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is **May 14**, 7pm-9pm)  
**Contact:** Rob Hehlen, Prescott National Forest 771-8182, [rhehlen@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhehlen@fs.fed.us)

**April 28 - National Trails Day Rally FUNd Raiser** at Pioneer Park in Prescott

**Contacts:** Joyce Mackin, 778-4985 [scooter2289@yahoo.com](mailto:scooter2289@yahoo.com); Susan Brook, 541-7538, 928-830-2036 [brook-susan@hotmail.com](mailto:brook-susan@hotmail.com)

- **Before April 27-** make NTD Rally

signs; **April 25-** 2 volunteers needed in the evening to help stuff Rally goody bags;  
**April 28-** 15 volunteers needed to set-up, man tables, place signs, register entrants, direct traffic, hand out numbers on the trail, clean up. Bring folding chair, water, food and sunscreen. Food will be available for purchase.

**April 29** - noon to 4pm, **Goldwater Lake Trail Construction** (new non-motorized trail), 30 volunteers needed, White Spar Campground (Schoolhouse Gulch Road) parking lot off White Spar Road. Construct new section of trail that will eventually lead from White Spar Road to Senator Highway. **Contact:** Prescott National Forest, Rob Hehlen, 771-8182, [rhehlen@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhehlen@fs.fed.us)

**May 12-** 9 am sharp, repair and enhance **Prescott's Mile High Trail System**, **contact:** Chris Hosking 237-0539, [chris.hosking@cityofprescott.net](mailto:chris.hosking@cityofprescott.net)

**May 12-** 9:30 am- 3:30 pm, **Grand Opening of the Old Stage Stop Store** on Williamson Valley Road and Outer Loop, man a table

**May 19:** 8am – Noon, **YTA Adopt a Trail**, 30 volunteers, no experience needed, YTA has adopted trails 347, 341 and 346 in Granite Basin. As adoptee, we are required to maintain the trail four times per year. Meet at parking area at the end of Katahn. Bring water, energy bars, sturdy gloves and boots, long pants, sunscreen and eye protection. **Contact:** Rob Hehlen, Prescott National Forest, 771-8182, [rhehlen@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhehlen@fs.fed.us) or Bob Sutton [rats542@msn.com](mailto:rats542@msn.com)

**June 1-3- Arizona Wilderness Coalition Trails Day Work Event.** **Contact** Sam Frank, Wildlands Planning Coordinator 928-717-6076 [www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org)

**July 2- Prescott Frontier Days** 4th of July Parade: need hiker, biker, and equestrian

**ASAP-** assist YTA President with organizing documents. **Contact** Jan, 445-2942, [alftrail@cableone.net](mailto:alftrail@cableone.net)

**Aug 26- Senior Olympics Equestrian Event**, Prescott, man a table



**Ann-Marie Heins of Prescott Creeks checks out a map of the Circle Trail at Manzanita Outdoors Grand Opening in March. YTA joined Prescott Creeks and several other organizations with table displays.**

*- Photo by Mike Druckenmiller.*

*“..open space that protects the best of our natural resources on behalf of ours and future generations of Prescott’s citizens.”*



**A hawk looks for lunch in Groom Creek.**

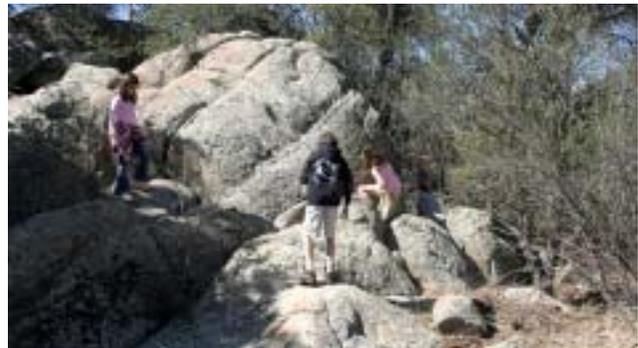
*- Photo by Mike Druckenmiller*

### **Open Space** *from page 1*

chase, the committee has worked closely with developers and city planners to ensure that either public or private open space within their developments retain the required minimum acreage. It was through pressure from this committee and other trail and open space advocates that preliminary plans for the Sundog Ranch development in east Prescott were modified to allow a public trail through the development to connect to the Prescott Circle Trail and other public trails in the area. The developers also removed a restriction that would have prevented equestrians from using the trail.

The foregoing actions of our committee were done because we acquired information informally from city staff. To further help our committee to ensure that we have opportunities to review preliminary development plats before they get city council or Planning and Zoning approval, we have secured a position on the city's Development Review Committee. This, of course, does not buy open space, but it does put us in a position to recommend on behalf of the city and its citizens strategies within private developments that make open space reservation an integral part of development plans. All of this can be done without spending a dime of our dedicated \$40.7 million fund.

Now let's consider actual progress in acquiring critical areas, speaking only of the expenditure of dedicated funds. All of these actions involved the active participation of OSAAC. Admittedly progress has been at a snail's pace, but for reasons I will outline. In September, 2005, the City of Prescott purchased a conservation easement on 28.6 acres of land within the Granite Creek riparian corridor for \$187,500.



**Children enjoying Nature Center on opening day.**

*- Photo by Ron Smith*

This was formally the property of Sherman Payne, a longtime Prescott resident and a man devoted to preserving a bit of Prescott's natural heritage. This property is being held in trust by the Central Arizona Land Trust. Plans are underway for trails within the parcel that will connect to other public trails, most importantly, the Peavine Trail.

On December 19 of last year the city spent \$1.8 million of its dedicated open space fund to purchase an 18-acre property adjacent to Granite Mountain Middle School. The Prescott Unified School District had owned the site and leased it for many years to the Highland Center for Natural History, who operated it as a center for nature study for children and adults. The City is currently converting the old cabin site to a visitor center and will provide maintenance services and management as an open space preserve and educational facility. It will be known as Community Nature Center Open Space Preserve. A grand re-opening of the center was held on March 31 that involved our committee, city council and mayor, and Highland Center officers and members.

There are many obstacles to purchasing open space and I mention here but a few of the most intractable. First, the areas of interest are also the

most valuable from a natural resource perspective. These resources enhance their potential value as development sites. Consequently, their appraisals are very high.

Next, in order to purchase, we need a willing seller. You have heard this excuse many times, but it is part of the truth. People sitting on natural resource lands are not paying taxes based on the value of development plats, only on undeveloped land. Consequently, many are willing to sit on their assets (no pun intended) as they appreciate.

Finally, the areas of interest are also the most valuable from a natural resource perspective. These resources enhance their potential value as development sites. Consequently, their appraisals are very high.

Nonetheless, OSAAC is continuing to pursue every possible strategy for acquiring open space that protects the best of our natural resources on behalf of ours and future generations of Prescott's citizens. To that end we are drafting a long range open space plan that will be presented to mayor and council within the next several months. We hope that if approved it can be added as an element of the 1997 City of Prescott General Plan.

Stay tuned!

*- Ron Smith*

## Parks and Rec Master Plan Focus Group Meetings

As a result of the initial public forum on the Prescott Parks and Recreation master planning process – including a letter drafted by 19 trail-interest organizations that made a united statement about trail needs in the next ten years (see sidebar) -- a number of organizations indicated that they would be interested in representing their groups at focus meetings conducted by consultant Logan Simpson Design, Inc.

Initially, the project manager asked for our comments about values, issues and needs. I brought up the dire need for a full-time assistant to Eric Smith as well as the importance of the Greenways, Peavine, and Circle Trails. A member of the Pioneer Park Equestrian Center Committee said that an equestrian program was needed for youth, and I added that an equestrian center should benefit adults and seniors as well, pointing out that my husband, Lee, and I -- 82 and 79 years of

age respectively -- are still riding.

We then broke into four assigned stations (tables), and each station had a moderator from Logan Simpson. Members of the public were also in attendance but not included at the tables, although there was a period for their input after the group sessions. Committee members circulated among the stations during the group input. We were invited to submit maps, data or other pertinent data to a member of Logan Simpson, and I will be sending my comments.

Comments from the March 21 focus meeting were reviewed at the April 3 session and some corrections were made. Lora Lopas, chairperson of the Mayor's Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee (OSAAC), was there to represent that group. She recently submitted an article to the **Daily Courier** in support of trails and other forms of

compatible passive recreation.

Logan Simpson, the firm conducting the meetings, gave a slide presentation showing the results of the survey that was mailed to 4000 homes and received 400 responses – a rate of 10 percent, but less than 1 percent of the total population of Prescott. The majority of the respondents were over age 55, and it was interesting to note that there was very little support for various means of funding the many expensive projects that are being requested by various groups. Jim McCasland, City Parks and Recreation Director, pointed out that while we all expressed our desires and needs, they will need to be funded. YTA has been very active in securing grants for trail projects and will continue to do so.

- Jan Alfano



### A Unified Voice

*On February 5, 19 area groups sent a letter to Charles Lockwood, Chair of the Prescott Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, presenting a unified voice for non-motorized trail users in the department's master planning process.*

*The letter addressed the benefits of trails and expressed specific concerns and items of importance including: a full-time trails specialist position; an improvement in trail standards; completion of the Prescott Circle Trail; completion of the Greenways trail system; working cooperatively with the Prescott Yavapai Tribe; completion of the Peavine Trail; improved trail planning; leveraging of resources; ensuring adequate access to trails; and improving recreation opportunities for the mobility-impaired.*

*The letter can be accessed on the Links page on the YTA website under the title "Parks & Rec Master Plan Letter."*

## Circle Trail Update

Thanks to cooperation between the developers of Storm Ranch, City of Prescott staff, and YTA, there is now another segment added to the Prescott Circle Trail. The developers were originally unaware of the Circle Trail and its proximity to their property. After a number of YTA members attended a Planning and Zoning meeting, the developer met with YTA representatives and later with city staff. They agreed to give an easement to the city for the continuation of the Circle Trail which will tie directly into the Peavine Trail. This was presented at the second P & Z meeting and was approved unanimously by the Committee. It is expected that the City Council will also give their

stamp of approval.

Prescott Parks and Rec, with help from YTA, will be nominating the remaining portions of the Circle Trail into the Arizona State Trails System. This is the first step necessary to apply for Heritage Fund grants (money from the Arizona Lottery). Rob Hehlen, Nigel Reynolds and Jan Alfano (YTA) have offered to assist Eric Smith and Chris Hosking (Prescott Parks and Rec) to prepare the lengthy applications. The applications require a lot of information regarding items like: difficulty, water supply, altitudes, and connections to other trails. It is a tedious process, but the Heritage Fund is the best source of funding.

The Prescott National Forest

is working on some slight route changes in their portion of the Circle Trail, and, to date, the trail is about 80 percent complete. This has been 14 years in the making, but will be a jewel in the trail system and for the City of Prescott. It has required a tremendous amount of cooperation from all the landowners (City of Prescott, Prescott National Forest, Embury-Riddle University, Yavapai County and Arizona Game & Fish Dept.) involved, for which we are grateful. The Prescott Circle Trail is a concept that originated with and has been developed through the efforts of YTA.

- Jan Alfano

**YAVAPAI  
TRAILS  
ASSOCIATION**

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We're on the web:  
[yavapaitrailsassociation.org](http://yavapaitrailsassociation.org)



*A coalition of non-motorized trail users.*

**YTA Ballot for Board Members, April 2007**

The membership will elect the directors to the board. These members are running for the board. You may vote for all of them. The by-laws permit as many as 15 members to serve on the Yavapai Trails Association Board.

- Jan Alfano, President
- Mike Druckenmiller, Communications
- Kathy Lopez, Volunteer Coordinator
- Joyce Mackin, Prescott Saddle Club
- Carolyn Mason, Senior Olympics
- Jim Pessin, Treasurer and Membership
- Nigel Reynolds, Historic Trails and Outreach
- Cathy Schultz, Central Arizona Trails Partnership
- Ron Smith, Vice President
- Carol Stafford, Secretary
- Bob Sutton, Trail Maintenance

You may vote for write-in candidates who are YTA member sand have agreed to serve on the board.

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Please check the box for each name you want on the Board. Clip (or copy) 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 Jan Alfano at 445.2942 or e-mail: [alftrail@cableone.net](mailto:alftrail@cableone.net).