

TRAIL TRACKS

A Publication Of Yavapai Trails Association



Summer 2006

A POPULAR Trail Gets a Retread

by Ron Smith

A major YTA's effort has been to establish the trail elements needed to link various parts of the County together into an integrated system (see also the Prescott National Forest update on the Circle Trail in this issue). The Turley Trail, one of those links, is a public, *non-motorized* recreational trail that connects Prescott neighborhoods to nearby National Forest trails within the Bradshaw Mountains.

the maintenance project until early this year. Now, for six weeks in June and July, trained crews have been repairing the trail surface. ATV traffic has damaged much of the southern reach of the trail by creating banks, gullies, and additional side trails. Much of this traffic originates from nearby residential areas. The trail rests on a purchased easement, but the land beyond the trail perimeter is State Trust Land that is not open to general recreational use. Most if not all of the ATV use of this trail has resulted from illegal access to State Trust lands.



YTA named the trail to honor the late Gerald H. Turley, who devoted many years to Boy Scouts of America, and in particular to their trail building projects within the Prescott National Forest.

Volunteers built the Turley Trail in 1993 on an easement purchased from the State Land Department with a grant from Arizona Game & Fish Department Heritage Fund. But the trail has received little maintenance since that time. About two years ago, YTA applied for a trail maintenance grant under a program administered by Arizona State Parks Department. We were successful, but various necessary clearances delayed



Crew member inspecting installation of water bars

Volunteers from YTA, County Adult Probation, and the Forestry Division of the State Land Department have recently placed some formidable barriers (boulders, felled dead pines, etc.) within the southern portion of the trail. The barriers have been designed to allow access for horse-

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Officers

Jan Alfano, Pres.	445-2942
Ron Smith, V. Pres.	445-6678
Carol Stafford, Secty.	778-9137
Jim Pessin, Treas.	771-2707

Board Of Directors

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Committees

Historic Trails & Outreach Committee: Nigel Reynolds

Trails Maintenance Committee: Bob Sutton

Newsletter Committee: Ron Smith

Special Events Committee: Susan Brook

Cartographer: Derek Brownlee

YTA Website: Vacant

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.

back, bicycle, and foot traffic, but to discourage ATVs. YTA has placed some informational signs in this area and plan more permanent ones over the next few months.

The Turley Trail affords some of the finest expansive views of the Prescott area. Why not spend a half-day visiting one of the now best maintained trails in the tri-city area. You will also get a chance to see the contributions made by so many volunteers whose only reward is the satisfaction of community service.

Here's more on how to get to the Turley Trail

Travel east on East Gurley Street in Prescott toward the junction where Hwy. 89 turns north to Chino Valley. Approximately 0.1 miles before this junction, turn right on Butterfield Road. After 0.3 miles Butterfield turns sharply left. After another 0.3 miles, turn right on Wells Fargo Road and continue to the top of the hill. At that point there is a sign for the trail and a narrow access road to the right. The road goes through a gate to the trailhead parking area. There is adequate parking for at least 6 vehicles.

The round-trip on this 2.75-mile trail will take about 3 hours. I consider it easy to moderate in difficulty, but that opinion is very subjective. This is a non-motorized trail for horseback riders, cyclists, and hikers. It can be pretty warm in mid-summer but the pine covered southern extent provides a shady respite.

The trail contours for most of its length across a west-facing brushy hillside. There is little elevation change and, consequently, the trail is easy to negotiate.

Its attractions are the splendid views west across the entire Prescott basin, with its backdrop of the Sierra Prieta and Granite Mountain. The trail connects to Forest Trail 126, thus offering an opportunity to further explore the mountainous terrain of the northern Bradshaws.



A CALL TO ACTION: PNF TRAIL #316 BLOCKED

A private property owner and Camp Yavapines are denying access to Trail #316 from what was once the old Santa Fe railroad grade. Access is now barred by a tall fence.

This trail has been in continuous use by local residents for over 50 years and they are understandably upset. To seek a legal remedy, a neighborhood citizen group has obtained the *pro bono* services of attorney Tony Shaw. At a community meeting on July 5, they also asked YTA to establish a fund and account to accept donations to help defray administrative costs of any potential litigation. These funds would be used exclusively for expenses relating to Trail #316 until the matter is resolved. At this meeting, the group elected officers and solicited pledges of \$50 to \$100 to support this effort.



The attorney agreed to first contact the property owners to see if an equitable solution is possible that would allow continued access to Trail #316.

At the recent meeting, other options were aired. Bill Cook of the PNF had said that PNF would prefer to get a legal easement to the existing trail (deeded to the city) rather than design and build a new trail segment. However, if this fails the Forest Service would be willing to construct a new trail segment from the nearest legal access to the forest.

If you would like to pledge a donation toward the legal expenses on this project, contact Laura Zambrano, lzam@cablone.net or Pete Dickinson, peterd@cablone.net.

city of prescott trails update

by Eric Smith

The following are some updates on the three federal transportation enhancement grants received by the City of Prescott:

1. Prescott Rails-to-Trails Phase II Acquisition (Peavine Trail from Prescott to Chino Valley):

■ Purchase from first of three owners (by airport) is complete. Recently, a second owner has indicated they are willing to sell, so negotiations are progressing, and efforts are underway to clear clouded title issues.

2. Prescott Rails-to-Trails Phase II Improvements (Bridge over Granite Creek):

■ Once purchase from second owner mentioned above is completed, the City can move forward on a new bridge for the northern abutment for the Granite Creek railroad trestle to allow a safe overpass over the mining trucks.

3. Prescott Greenways Multi-Use Trail Segments (Downtown Bike-Ped Trail System):

■ Of the 22 private property owners, the City has been successful with 14 so far, and this includes donated public trail easements, donated fee simple lands, and a land exchange. A citizens committee is currently negotiating with the remaining private property owners.

Additional citizen involvement on above projects is always welcomed. Contact me at eric.smith@cityofprescott.net



Trailside rest on West Granite Creek Trail in downtown Prescott

GREENWAYS TRAIL SYSTEM

By Jan Alfano

The City of Prescott has asked YTA to become involved in the City of Prescott Greenways Trail System. The plans for this have been in the works for years and Eric Smith, Prescott Parks and Trails Superintendent, has secured public easements for a trail system that follows along Granite and Miller Creeks. The majority of property owners have already signed over 15 foot wide easements but a few remaining property owners need to be contacted. The trail would be similar to the one in Granite Creek Park and accommodate hikers, runners and bicyclists.

The Greenways system would include just over three miles of creek-side trails. In 2001, the City was successful in obtaining a \$500,000 transportation grant. West Granite trail, which is across the LaGuardia Bridge from Granite Creek Park is well-maintained with bridges and benches. It is a popular destination for visitors and those using the trail for transportation.

At the end of each trail, the city plans to construct "gateway" entrances which will include signs and landscaping. The trail follows Miller Creek from a point south of Hillside and travels east where it meets Granite Creek. The Granite Creek segment travels from Prescott Junior High School north to Granite Creek Park and then to the railroad bed at the VA Hospital.

This will be a very popular trail that can be used for alternate transportation as well as recreation. The challenge now is obtaining public easements from all of the property owners. Hopefully they will realize this is a tremendous benefit to them and will certainly enhance property values.

For some interesting history regarding Prescott's creeks, check out Sharlot Hall Museum, Days Past. There was a nice article printed April 25, 1999, *Preserving and Restoring Prescott's Creeks for the Future*, compiled by Michael Byrd, Betty Sigfried and Eric Glomski. Laurel Freeman is leading the present committee and can be contacted at:
laurelfreeman@hotmail.com.

Prescott Circle Trail National Forest Update

*By Rob Hehlen
Forest Service Trails Technician*

Volunteers working with Prescott National Forest several months ago completed a new section of the Circle Trail. This section of trail runs from Iron Springs Road to Granite Basin Road was completed after nearly a year of Thursday morning volunteer efforts. A continuation of that trail (#332) will cross Granite Basin Road and connect with Trails #341 and #347 above and east of the Cayuse Day Use Parking area. This section is about 1/3 done. A third section of the Circle Trail that will cross Senator Highway from the Watershed trail #299 to the Banning Creek Trail #61 and is being flagged and surveyed for construction in the near future.

If you are interested in volunteering in the construction of these new trails, please contact Rob Hehlen at 771-8182 or by email: rob@cragmania.com. There is a Thursday morning group and a Monday evening volunteer group. If you have a group that would like to work together on a different day or evening, please let me know. With your help, these new sections of trail will be up and running in no time.

OTHER CIRCLE TRAIL ADDITIONS

A City of Prescott crew completed the Alfano Trail in May, 2006. It connects to the Embry-Riddle Trail (still under construction) and thence to the Willow Lake Trail.

Eric Smith, City of Prescott Recreation & Trails Coordinator, needs assistance in securing easements on State Trust Lands for other sections of the Prescott Circle Trail in northeast Prescott. Any volunteers?



ARIZONA TRAIL

By Jan Alfano

Richard Wertz, Membership Chairman of the Arizona Trail Association recently said, "As volunteers are steadily making the Arizona Trail a reality, the ATA is working to increase its membership." Arizona Trail is a scenic, non-motorized trail that stretches for 775 miles through some of the state's most renowned mountains, canyons, deserts and forests. It is a primitive long distance trail that begins at the US-Mexican border and ends at the Arizona-Utah. Along the way, it winds through some rugged, spectacular landscapes and is the longest contiguous trail in the State, beckoning trail users from around the world.

This is a multiple-use trail that benefits hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers (except in wildernesses or other specially managed areas), cross country skiers, snowshoers, joggers and packstock users. More than 16 federal, state and local agencies as well as many businesses, organizations and countless volunteers have worked together to form partnerships to plan, develop and manage the Arizona Trail.

The Arizona Trails Association (ATA) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1994. It works closely with its land management agency partners to plan, build, maintain, promote, and assist in the protection and preservation of the trail. The Association manages a large cadre of volunteers, including dedicated *Segment Stewards*, individuals, businesses and groups who are working to preserve the trail corridor for today's trail users and future generations. Support for this work comes through ATA membership, trail development gifts, grants, contributions, fund raising and trail work events.

There are 66.5 miles of trail remaining to be built and the goal is to have the Trail ready for dedication in 2012, the year of Arizona's centennial. Your support helps to ensure the protection of the scenic wonders that are linked together by the Arizona Trail. For more information, check out their new web site at www.aztrail.org, or contact Membership Chairman, Richard Wertz at rawertz@commspeed.net (Put Arizona Trail in the subject line).

Eric Smith, City of Prescott, is on the board of ATA

more FROM THE FOREST SERVICE

By Jan Alfano

Bill Cook, Forest Dispersed Recreation Officer, has advised that three trailheads were approved for construction in the Prescott Basin II plan. These are: Aspen TH (off Copper Basin Road), Garden Grove (off Thumb Butte Road – equestrian design), and Circle TH (off Iron Springs Road at Tr#332). These recreation projects were approved by NEPA decisions.

Unfortunately, Bill will be leaving and we are uncertain who at the Forest Service will be in charge. However, if you are interested in getting involved in any of these projects, please inform YTA (call Jan at 445-2942) and we will be making up a list of volunteers. Our Trail Maintenance Chairman is Bob Sutton, and as soon as we know exactly how to proceed, either Bob or Jan will be in touch with you. Apparently there are no appropriated funds available to construct new trailhead facilities, and Bill suggests aggressive use of grants. YTA will offer to help the FS in grant writing and we will ask the Forest Service for a timeline to completion.

2006 prescott senior olympics equestrian events

See Calendar on p.6. for time & place.~

Order of Events:

Halter Class
Western Horsemanship
Western Pleasure, Walk Trot
Western Pleasure
Trail Class (Western & English).
Lunch Break
Gaited Horse class
English Pleasure Walk Trot
English Pleasure
Dressage Equitation
Barrel Racing
Washington Pole Bending

Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medallion will be awarded in each event and the following age division: 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80+ . ~Age groups will be combined to insure adequate competition but medals will still be awarded in the respective age groupings.

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, Aug. 3, same location as above

2006 Prescott Senior Olympics Equestrian Events
Sunday July 30, Whistle Stop Ranch 151 S. Highway 69,
Dewey, AZ
Registration 8:00 AM. The show starts at 9:00 AM. Pre-
registration is available by completing a form available at
Prescott Parks & Recreation. Call (928) 777-1122 for a
form or with questions. On site registration is available.
Entry fees are \$20.00 for the first event. Additional events
are \$5.00.

Arizona Game & Fish Dept., Open House on Roadless Area
rules
Thursday, July 20 - Prescott
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Office, 1015 Fair
St. (check paper for time and room number)

Game & Fish Department (AGF) seeks public input on roadless area management.

A number of open house meetings have been
scheduled for July and August to give the public a
chance to comment of the management of
Arizona's roadless areas.

The purpose is to give some guidance to Gov.
Janet Napolitano and the Arizona Game & Fish
Department in a petition to the USDA Forest
Service specific management requirements on the
1.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas
within the six national forests in Arizona.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members!!

Irene Cox 3/11/2006

Joyce Mackin 1/5/2006

Morgan Ranch Park Assoc., Inc 1/20/2006

Rob & Susie Hehlen 5/16/2006

Dave Johnson 6/9/2006

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Yavapai County General Plan Review Draft
[http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/departments/ds/
genplan/genplan.asp](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/departments/ds/genplan/genplan.asp)

City of Prescott General Plan
[http://www.cityofprescott.net/General%20Plan/
index.cfm](http://www.cityofprescott.net/General%20Plan/index.cfm)

Prescott Area Trail Maps, by Derek Brownlee
<http://www.sharlot.org/archives/maps/trailmaps>

Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai
<http://yavapaiosa.org/OSAMain.htm>

Yavapai Trails Association
www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org

**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.

Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ E-mail _____

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 \$15.00 individual/family; \$24.00 organization/business

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

CENTRAL ARIZONA TRAILS PARTNERSHIP

By Jan Alfano

Jim Buchanan reports that at the May 10 meeting of this group there was a consensus regarding several steps to proceed on. It was decided that the priority was the Williamson Valley/Alto Pit trails system and decisions regarding steps relating to that. These steps are:

* Place signs and erect sufficient deterrents at both ends of Trail #671 to stop all motorized uses. The PNF Williamson Valley/Alto Pit trails decision made Trail #671 non-motorized from the east end, old Stazenski gate, west to Long Canyon including a spur to the north.

* Scout and GPS the best proposed trail route for the approved new system trail around the private land in the Granite Mountain Wilderness on the east side of "Baby Granite" connecting to Trail #308 and north to Trail #671. Contact Spike Hicks for info on this.

Volunteers will do the foregoing work, and involve all who desire to help. Then Forest Service staff will be asked to look at it. The FS will need to complete any requirements; volunteers will build it. Contact Jim Buchanan for info on this.

* Obtain grants or other funding and begin work on the motorized connections from Alto Pit OHV area to the west. Contact Jeff Gursh for info on this at *Gursh1spud@aol.com*.

Each of these steps has support of the user groups and Prescott National Forest staff subject to available funding or resources. Each may proceed at different speeds depending on volunteer and staff resources. Please reply if you want to be involved in these projects. They will be asking for volunteers as we move forward. You can contact Jim Buchanan for CATP at 778-2400 or *jimbuchanan@cableone.net*.

Yavapai Trails
Association

P. O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302



www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org