

Trail Tracks

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Prescott Circle Trail

The Goldwater Lakes Trail 396, which runs 4 ½ miles from White Spar Campground at Schoolhouse Gulch Road to Senator Highway is nearing completion. The "Over The Hill Gang" trail crew, which works a half a day every Thursday morning, has been working on the east end since late January and has built about 2 ½ miles. Volunteers, during an International Mountain

Biking Association trail workshop earlier in the year, and Taylor and Tyler Goodman with 40 volunteers for their Eagle Projects have completed ¾ of a mile on the western end. Just east of the Bannon (a.k.a. Banning) Creek Trail 61, I have been working with my mini excavator and have built another ½ mile. The trail is expected to be finished by March 2008. It's a wonderful trail

that meanders through the Ponderosa Pines with glimpses of both Goldwater Lakes, Thumb Butte, Granite Mountain and the Bradshaws. To reach the east trailhead, take Senator Highway to the Watershed Trail 299 parking area and walk across the street. To reach the west trailhead, take White Spar Rd/ Highway 89 to White Spar Campground. There is park-

see **Circle Trail**, page 7

Donations

Rob Hehlen, PNF Volunteer Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Open Space Alliance. Eric Smith, City of Prescott Parks & Trails Superintendent, has asked the Open Space Committee for their support in requesting Prescott City Council to allocate \$38,000 to purchase a right-of-way through a State Trust land section just west of Pioneer Park. If approved by City Council, Rob Hehlen will complete application for a Heritage Fund Grant request for \$65,000. The total project cost for this one-mile section of trail is estimated

to be about \$130,000. The balance needed will come primarily from volunteer labor as in-kind match.

The intent is to present Hehlen's power-point presentation to Prescott City Council so that they are up to speed on the current status of the trail. If the budget allocation is approved, the grant application can be completed and submitted by the City of Prescott.

Regarding the PNF, Hehlen is also seeking permission to write a grant to build the two trailheads at Iron Springs Road and

Thumb Butte Road, and to construct the two new trails in the Circle Trail Proposed Action. The Forest Service has supported the concept of the Circle Trail since the acquisition of the Turley Trail in early 1990's and Rob has been a great help in acting as liaison between YTA and PNF.

Yavapai Trails Association has agreed to set up an account for cash donations to be used specifically for the Prescott Circle Trail. Monies would be used for projects such as the trailheads, trail construction, grant matches, directional signs, historical information

see **Donations**, page 6

GPS

*“Try it yourself...
you’ll find out it
really isn’t that
difficult.”*

The first half of this article was published in the Summer 2007 newsletter – it explained the UTM grid system. Go to our website (www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org) and click on Newsletter if you don’t have a copy. This second half explains how to use your GPS to find where you are on a USGS topo map

The diagram represents the southwest corner of the Iron Springs topo map, with the map part replaced with grey shading to better illustrate how to use UTM. Remember from the first article, UTM uses a grid system, marked on topo maps as squares with sides of one kilometer (1000 meters). You can see one of these full squares in the diagram (the square in white), as well as some partial squares. The number in the bottom margin, ³⁶1, defines the left edge of this full square, and is known as the “easting” because it’s value increases as you go east (e.g., from ³⁶1 to ³⁶2). Similarly, the number in the right margin, ³⁸19, defines

the bottom edge of this square, and is known as the “northing” because it’s value increases as you go north. The UTM reading for this square (actually its southwest corner, defined by the small circle) is [0361.000E 3819.000N] – I’m using square brackets rather than quotes to define the reading. The UTM reading for the partial 1 km square that’s immediately to the northeast of this full square is [0362.000E 3820.000N] – this point is marked with a solid black triangle.

The small solid black square represents where we are on the map, and its reading would be [0361.810E 3819.370N]. The last three digits of both the easting and northing being the distance in meters we are from the SW corner of the 1 km square. To be precise, the reading on our GPS is actually [0361.805E 3819.372N]. Due to the approximate ten-meter accuracy limit of the GPS discussed before – not to mention the limited precision of measuring these dis-

tances on the map – I rounded the “units” digit of the two numbers to 810 and 370 respectively for simplicity.

Well, I hate to admit it, but I have lied just a little. The actual reading on your GPS looks slightly different, and would be [12S 0361805 3819372] not [0361.805E 3819.372N]. I mentally add the decimal points to differentiate the location within the 1 km grid from the grid numbers on the map margins, and I add the E (for easting) and N (for northing) to remember which number is which. An easy way to remember the order (E then N) is to “ENjoy life” or “ENjoy using your GPS.” Well, you may ask, what’s that “12S” doing at the front of the GPS reading? It refers to the much larger 1,000 by 1,000 km grid that you are in (~625 miles on a side). The whole world has been divided up into many major grids of this size (this is another slight simplification to ease understanding). You will always be in the major grid

Yavapai Trails Association

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Please send questions, comments, and suggestions to the editor, Mike Druckenmiller, at mike@banningcreek.com



“12S” in Yavapai County (and in most of Arizona), so just forget that part of the reading unless you are far from home.

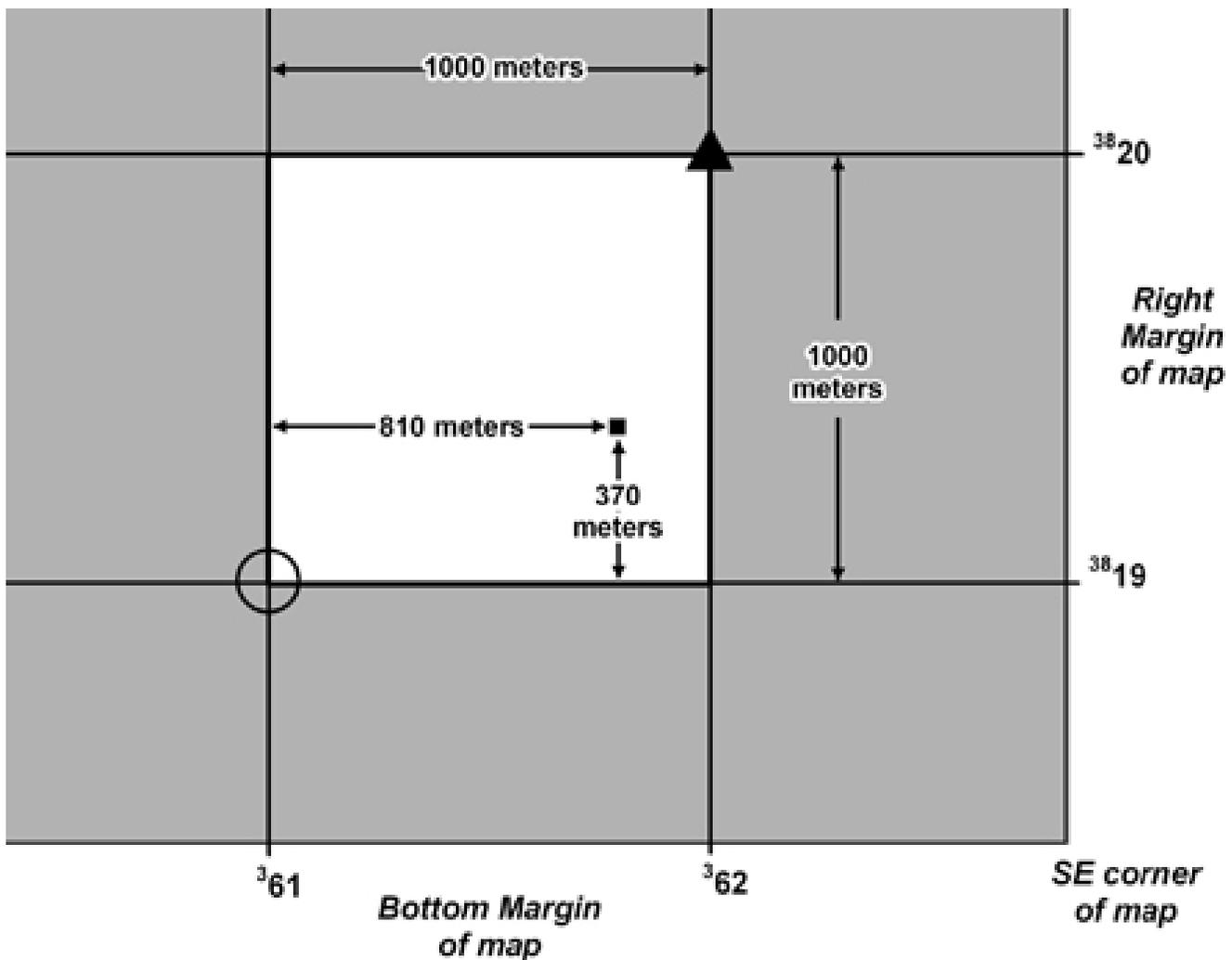
To “eyeball” our above position on the map, take a point about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way between the left and right of our grid square (810 is close enough to 750, which would be the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of the 1000 meter side), and about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way between the bottom and top of the grid square (370 is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of

1000) – that’s where you are! For more precision, you can buy or make a small transparent plastic square which, when “overlaid” on top of the 1km grid square, shows each 100 meters – in my example the “8 digit” in the easting and the “3 digit” in the northing. Most overlays usually show lines down to an accuracy of 25 meters, rather than 100 meters. By now you may be thinking “this guy is crazy, this is too complicated for me.” How-

ever, if you follow my guidance step-by-step, or better yet, try it yourself on a real map, you’ll find out it really isn’t that difficult.

To use UTM on your GPS (or even lat/long), you will need to set-up you GPS device. Go to the Set-up menu (probably there’s a “set-up” for Navigation or Units) and change the position format to UTM (it may

see **GPS**, page 6



“Although it is degraded, Watson Woods is the best remaining example of riparian habitat in central Arizona.”



Over 2 Miles of Trails Coming to Watson Woods

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is 126 acres of rare and threatened Fremont cottonwood/red willow riparian (streamside) gallery forest along Granite Creek. It is all that remains of what was once a 1,000 acre forest that stretched from the Granite Dells four miles upstream into downtown Prescott. The area that is now the Preserve has been through a lot in the past 150 years. There has been cattle grazing, target shooting, off-road vehicle use, small scale dumping of household trash, wood-cutting, and even sand and gravel mining. All of this, and other upstream issues, has caused the US EPA to add Granite Creek to their 303(d) list of “impaired waters.”

Although it is degraded, Watson Woods is the best remaining example of riparian habitat in central Arizona. And it’s getting better with help from the City of Prescott, thousands of community volunteers and Prescott Creeks (a local grassroots organization) who are restoring this historic and important ecosystem. The Preserve was established in 1995 with a 25-year lease between the City of Prescott (the landowner) and Prescott Creeks. Since then a lot of work has been done to prepare for restoration of the Preserve. The Watson Woods Riparian Pre-

serve Restoration Plan, completed earlier this year, describes critical restoration design elements. Noxious weed eradication and a new main entrance on the western edge of Preserve are also detailed in the plan, as are many opportunities for community members to participate in all aspects of the restoration project.

Also included as part of the restoration project are plans for interpretive trails through the Preserve. The trails will include two short loop trails, as well as connections to the Peavine Trail, the Discovery Trail at the upstream end of Watson Lake, and the Prescott Circle Trail. The trails will start from what will become the new main entrance to Watson Woods, on the western side of the Preserve at Rosser St. Interpretive signs will guide visitors through the Preserve covering a variety of topics and providing education about the natural and human history of the area. Trails are an integral part of the plan for Watson Woods that will provide opportunities for recreation, physical fitness, education, and meditation. As one of the important pieces of open space in the City, the trails will also allow people the opportunity to easily access the creek, riparian areas, and habitat.

So far nearly \$1.4 mil-

lion – representing about 95% of the total estimated restoration budget has been secured for the five year project. However, while this amount covers much of the on-the-ground work, it does not cover trail installation and maintenance. Hopefully, much of the trails work will come from volunteers who value the open space and the trail experience.

On-the-ground restoration work is expected to begin during the fall of 2008. If you would like to volunteer for this exciting project, make a financial contribution, or if you belong to a group that would like a field-trip or presentation, please call Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669, or email Info@PrescottCreeks.org to make arrangements. Additional information can be found at:

www.PrescottCreeks.org.

- **Ann-Marie Benz**, Watershed Program Coordinator, Prescott Creeks

Turley Trail Access

Thanks to Arizona Game & Fish Department, access to the Turley Trail is now secured until 2046. Rick Bradford of AG & FD called with the good news because the status of this access and parking area has been in limbo for several years. The original agreement with State Land Dept. on the Heritage Fund grant was in effect for ten years.

Turley Trail Access Cont.

Game & Fish Department and a Heritage Fund Grant from them was very influential in helping us secure the Turley Trail easement and we are grateful that they have resolved this issue to the benefit of trail users.

Member Organizations

Let us know about any items that might be of interest to our membership. Also, suggestions are welcome. We all have the same basic goals in mind and need to share information and ideas.

Chino Valley Peavine Trail

Does anyone have knowledge of the "Friends of the Peavine" group that was formed many years ago? If so, or if you are interested in promoting the Chino Valley Peavine Trail section, please contact Vicki Warner at Chino Valley Peavine Trail, P. O. Box 72, Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Help Wanted

We are looking for people interested in helping with National Trails Day which will be April 26, 2008 at Pioneer Park. A lot of work goes into the planning but it is fun. Contact Joyce at 778-4985, e-mail: joyce-mackin@gmail.com, or Jan at 445-2942, email: alftrail@cablone.net.

Help is also needed in putting out the newsletter four times a year. We could use someone computer literate to edit the newsletter on a volunteer basis. Also, some helping hands to get it in the mail would be a great asset. Call Jan at 445-2942 or email: alftrail@cablone.net.

Articles are always welcome too.

YTA would like to have representatives around the county to report what is happening in their area. They would not have to be board members, but could stay in contact via email and keep us up to date. Updates can be sent to Kathy Lopez at: lopez1234@msn.com.

Kathy has been doing a fabulous job relaying information to our membership and the board.

Saddle Club News

Prescott Saddle Club has been in existence for about 50 years. It was formed by about 24 people who liked to ride and now has about 140 members. The Saddle Club is an open membership group. Most members do have horses and ride trails, but it is not a requirement of membership. The Saddle Club has rides almost every Saturday and they also offer social gatherings 3 or 4 times a year.

The interests of the Saddle Club are horsemanship, particularly in trail riding, trail use, preservation and development of new trails. The Saddle Club has always been a strong supporter of Yavapai Trails Association in the development of non-motorized trails.

Prescott Saddle Club's new President is Carol Ross. Carol and her husband, Clare, have lived in Arizona for about 30 years and have made their home in Chino Valley for the last 5 years. Carol and Clare raise, train and sell Foxtrotters [a special breed of horse known for their smooth and gentle gaits]. Their farm is called, "Silver Spur Foxtrotters". When I asked Carol about Foxtrotters, she said, "They are the ultimate trail horse!."

That's the Prescott Saddle Club news.

-Joyce Mackin, Prescott Saddle Club Representative

“Everyone stands to benefit from the PCT - residents, merchants, motels, and governmental agencies through tax dollars.”

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signs, etc. (maybe even some benches where folks can sit and enjoy the views). The Circle Trail (PCT) is a wonderful addition to the Prescott area for both residents and tourists. There are many local trails that connect to it and campsites are even envisioned for the future. Ultimately the trail will encompass about 50 miles and at present is about 80% complete. We still need to purchase 7-1/2 miles of easement from the State Land Department with prices varying from \$10,000/acre to \$250,000/acre, depending on location.

The Prescott Circle Trail was first conceived by Yavapai Trails Association about 1990. There has been terrific support from Prescott National Forest; Yavapai County (sponsors of the

Turley Trail Heritage Fund grant and the Brownlow Trail System at Pioneer Park); City of Prescott (Legacy, Willow Lake and Peavine Trails), Embury-Riddle University, and developers of the Storm Ranch. Plans include rerouting the portion of trail running parallel to Pioneer Parkway to take it further from the road for a more enjoyable experience.

Everyone stands to benefit from the PCT – residents, merchants, motels, and governmental agencies through tax dollars. It is a given that more Americans are interested in healthy outdoor activities and trails appeal to young and old, can be utilized any time of the day or year, require no scheduling or special equipment. The Prescott Circle

Trail will allow connections to other communities, reduce pollution, promote healthy activities and promote Prescott as a special place to visit and live.

- Jan Alfano

Yavapai Trails Association is a 501 (c) 3 corporation and donations to the Prescott Circle Trail are tax deductible. To print a map of the PCT, go to our website:

www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org. Support your community and the PCT. Donations can be sent to YTA at P. O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302 and will be greatly appreciated.

GPS from page 3

be called UTM UPS). Then change the map datum to NAD27 CONUS – this stands for “North American Datum 1927, Continental United States” and is the datum used by USGS topo maps. Your instruction manual will give you guidance on set-up. Alternatively, ask someone at the store where you bought it, or consult an experienced friend. To become more expert yourself, consider

attending a course – Yavapai College offers one-day GPS courses from time to time. In the past, some have been given there by a member of YTA (Tracy Devault) – I have learned a lot from him!

Have fun with your GPS – it can do much more than I have covered in this article, so just experiment and learn!

- Nigel Reynolds

Circle Trail *from page 1*

ing at the beginning of Schoolhouse Gulch Rd. Walk up the road for about 100 yards; the trail starts on the left.

The Prescott National Forest has begun plans to implement a 1999 decision to convert Forest Road 51 and 51A to a non-motorized trail, which will be a section of the Circle Trail south of Thumb Butte. Notices have been posted on the affected road sections and e-mails were sent out to trail user groups.

PCT Proposed

Bradshaw District Ranger Laura Jo West is seeking input on the proposed Prescott Circle Trail Project in the Prescott National Forest. You and view and print a map of the proposed actions by going to the YTA website:

www.yavapaitrailsassociation.org.

There is a need for the action because several sections of the current trail are on sections that allow motorized vehicles and on Forest roads. In addition, there are gaps where no trail exists. This Project will convert roads and multi-use trail to non-motorized trails; create a new non-motorized trail that will bypass a multi-use trail and include new trails where none exist completing the

There have been a few e-mails opposed to this plan. To comment on the implementation, go to the PNF website. On the right side of the home page is a link to the road-to-trails conversion.

The Prescott National Forest has begun the NEPA process for a proposed action to complete the forest portion of the Circle Trail as a completely non-motorized trail. This would include several new trails and conversions of roads to trails as well as 4 dispersed

Circle Trail within the Prescott National Forest

Four dispersed primitive camping sites to accommodate 8-10 people with fire ring and hitching post, will be located along the trail.

The Forest Service would like to know of any issues, concerns and suggestions you may have about this proposal. Comments should be as fully formed and specific as possible to assist in the analysis. Although it was preferred that comments be in by January 11, 2008, they are still welcome at any time – the sooner the better. Please submit your comments in writing via post or email to:

Prescott Circle Trail Project, Prescott National Forest, 344 S. Cortez St., Prescott, AZ 86303, Attn: Rob Hehlen, or [comments-](#)

campsites so that users could complete the 50 mile trail in one trip. Public scoping has been completed and the next step will be to review the comments – nearly 80 of them - and see if any alternatives to the plan are needed when the environmental analysis is drafted. At that point, the EA will go back out to the public for further review. Based on responses and a final decision by the district ranger, the Prescott National Forest could be implementing some of the project by the end of this year.



southwestern-prescott-bradshaw@fs.fed.us.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Hehlen of the PNF at 928-443-8230 or e-mail at rhehlen@fs.fed.us. Comments received in response to this scoping will be considered part of the public record on this project.

**Yavapai Trails
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**We're on the web:
yavapaitrailsassociation.org**

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY FUND RAISER

APRIL 26, 2008 – PIONEER PARK, PRESCOTT

Co-sponsored by

City of Prescott and Yavapai Trails Association

(National Sponsor: American Hiking Society)

Proceeds to benefit Prescott Circle Trail



HORSE/HIKER/BIKER RELAY - Each team will consist of a hiker, equestrian, and bicyclist or combo. Start at 9:00 a.m.; register 8:00 a.m. Absolutely no need for speed as there will not be any advantage – its more of a poker run. There is an entry fee of \$15.00/person and prizes will be \$75, \$60 and \$45 per team for 3 teams with greatest aggregate of numbers. Register early to assure correct t-shirt size. For info contact Joyce, 778-4985, email: joycemackin@gmail.com; or Jan, 445-2942, email alftrail@cablone.net.