



Trail Tracks

YAVAPAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2020

Chino Valley Peavine Rail-to-Trail — a Success Story —

In early 2020, Yavapai Trails Association was awarded a \$10,450 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation. Once the award was announced, we rolled up our sleeves and went to work. We reached out to the Chino Community, our City of Prescott and Prescott National Forest Partners, The Greater Prescott Outdoor Fund, and our cadre of dedicated volunteer hikers, bikers, and equestrians. By pooling our resources, obtaining donations, and recycling resources, we ended up with a “stone soup” project that resulted in over \$52,000 worth of trail improvements!

Some of these trail amenities include: 4 new benches, two kiosks, 5 dog waste stations, 4 educational exhibits and trail signage. We placed boulders at Perkinsville Rd. and 4S for the equestrians as well as providing general clean-up of the trail parking lots and trail access points.

The Town of Chino Valley installed stop signs, and trail caution signs at the major road



intersections to enhance the safety of all user groups. To date, almost 1,000 volunteer hours have

been documented to enhance this segment of the Peavine!

As the saying goes, “Build it and they will come” rings true. The trail counters indicate that the trail is now receiving an estimated 45,000 users a year! Many thanks to all who worked so very hard. The Chino Peavine is

now ready to “connect” with the Prescott Peavine (in 2021).



from the President
Ann Hendrickson



Partnerships, Partnerships & Partnerships

2020 may go down in the annals of history as a terrible year. Between the pandemic, the hottest and driest summer on record, and myriad consequential challenges, it is sometimes difficult to find the silver lining. But when I reflect on the people I have worked with, and the work that YTA members and partners have accomplished this year for our trails, I am grateful and rejuvenated.

Members, donors, and partners bring me hope and enthusiasm for the future. It has sometimes been a struggle, but together as partners we have not only adapted to every challenge, but we have also had fun and excelled. Collectively, we have made a positive difference. For that I am grateful, and I thank you!

Your support and partnerships have enabled YTA in 2020 to:

- Improve the Chino Valley Peavine with a value-added at \$52,500. This includes a \$10,450 grant from ACF, \$4,000 from GPOF, contributions from the City of Prescott, Chino Valley, the Prescott National Forest, Olsen's, others, and 1,000 hours of volunteer labor from ALL user groups.
- Develop a legacy "time-line" poster for Chino Valley (initially for the kiosks) by YTA Board member Ellen Tyler and Kay Lauster of the Chino Valley Historical Society.
- Continue to sponsor the popular YTA Circle Trail Challenge, many thanks to our sponsor, Russ Lyon Sotheby's.
- Rehabilitate the Wolverton Trail with a \$10,000 grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, a \$2,000 contribution from Chloe Woodruff's Circle Trail Challenge via the Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance, the Prescott National Forest, and over 400 volunteer labor hours.
- Purchase and install new safety signage at the Watershed and Contreras trails in PNF.
- Partner with the Highlands Center for Natural History at the last minute to offer a modified 2020 Hiking Spree.
- Partner with GPOF to design and install 4 Educational Exhibits along the Chino Peavine for trail users to enjoy for perpetuity.

These are a few of our 2020 highlights. Our work is not done. Our trails are experiencing an all-time-high user experience. This is GREAT news, but it also puts a stress on our trails. We continue to evaluate, assess, and explore. Please join us as we welcome 2021. You can feel proud of contributing to an improved quality of life in Yavapai County.

Prescott Circle Trail Challenge

In 1990, the Yavapai Trails Association initiated the idea of a non-motorized trail that would "circle" the city of Prescott. With many partners and volunteers, by late 2014, the 54-mile Prescott Circle Trail (PCT) was completed.

For the second year, YTA has partnered with Russ Lyon Sotheby's Real Estate to sponsor the Prescott Circle Trail Challenge.

We invite you to achieve the physical accomplishment of completing the entire Circle Trail on bicycle, hiking, riding a horse, or any combination. Upon completion of the Prescott Circle Trail, you can fill out a form and you will receive a personalized Certificate of Completion, and either a Prescott Circle Trail patch, bolo tie, or bumper sticker, free of charge.

www.yavapai-trails.org/prescott-circle-trail

The Prescott Circle Trail, gives hikers, backpackers, equestrians, and mountain bikers a route through Prescott National Forest, City of Prescott, Yavapai County, and state lands. You get great views of Watson lake, Willow Lake, and Goldwater lake, cut through Granite Dells, and take in Granite Mountain and Thumb Butte.

Several resources that may aide your planning include; downloading the Avenza map with the Circle Trail on it, picking up a copy of the City of Prescott Trail map, and/or purchasing a copy of the Guide to the Prescott Circle Trail, written by former YTA Board member Nigel Reynolds.



Make a Difference With Your Time and Talent

Yavapai Trails Association is a small group of dedicated volunteers who perform “behind the scenes” work to continually maintain and improve the non-motorized trail systems throughout our county.

YTA needs more of our members to help accomplish these goals. Specifically, if you have experience or an interest in fund raising, grant writing, events organizing, website maintenance, advocacy, program management, or simply the willingness to get involved we have a special spot for you!

Please drop us a note at: Yavapai.trails@gmail.com

Our trails will benefit from your service.

Questions from the YTA Mailbox:

Why Do We Have to Pick up Dog Poop?

When wild animals eat and poop in the woods, they are consuming food that comes from that environment. When it is time to make a dookie, they are then returning those resources and nutrients back to the same ecosystem.

Dog food is enriched, and subsequent poop is loaded with nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous. These are washed into storm runoff and almost always enter rivers, lakes, streams or the ocean without being treated, contributing to algae blooms in lakes and rivers, growth of invasive weeds, and damage to native plant and fish species.

Moreover, just like human poop, dog poop contains bacteria and parasites. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. This bacterium can spread diseases, pollute soil, and contaminate the water we drink.

Dog poop is also a common carrier of



Sharing the Trails

Yavapai Trails Association is a member of the Prescott Trail Safety Coalition. It has been brought to the attention of the Coalition, that in recent weeks there have been several “conflicts” between user groups on our trail system. While they are few and far between, we all need a reminder on trail etiquette. The goal for all is having a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience. Please take the time to report any trail incidents that you observe or are part of.

Some of the trails you will visit in Yavapai County are multi-use, meaning that hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians may all share the same trail. A basic etiquette rule is Wheels Yield to Heels. Keep this in mind when approaching other trail users. Bicyclists yield to all other users while hikers/walkers, yield to horseback riders.



Safety on the Trail

It is every trail user’s responsibility and right to ensure their own safety and expect safe practice from other trail users.

Exercise caution always and follow guidelines, and rules of the trails. Preventing accidents or injuries is the first step, acting responsibly if something does happen is the second. Perhaps you’ve never thought of trail etiquette as one of the more important aspects of trail use, but it should be a major part of any trail users experience for your safety and enjoyment as well as that of others.

Trail use is a privilege that must not be abused or disrespected. Making trail etiquette a priority allows everyone to enjoy the outdoors and have a good time

Questions from the YTA Mailbox: dog poop continued

whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, parvo, coronavirus, salmonella, cryptosporidium, and campylobacter. Now, consider this: Across the US, dogs produce 10.6 MILLION TONS of waste annually. In 2018,

Leave No Trace conducted a study on dog waste in Boulder, Colorado’s Open Space and Mountain Parks. Of the 150 miles of public trails over 45,000 acres, 90% are open to dogs. An estimated 30 TONS of pet waste was left behind on those trails annually.

Whether you are walking your dog around the block or going for a long-distance hike in the forest, please pick up after your dog, and dispose of it properly.

Our environment thanks you!



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

**For Membership, \$30 annually visit:
www.yavapai-trails.org/volunteer**



Honoring Board Officer Judith Hale

Dynamic Judie Hale has been both YTA's Secretary and Treasurer until she was lured away to power up other businesses. She has been succeeded on the Board by Ellen Tyler and David Fero in those roles respectively.

With her professional background in logistics, Judie spearheaded many initiatives, including the Hiking Spree in association with the Highlands Center for Natural History, and Development/Events. Other major accomplishments included managing the operations of the Prescott Circle Trail Challenge, YTA website redesign, and establishing YTA financials on new software.

We will miss her powerhouse work ethic and infectious enthusiasm, and wish her the best in her new endeavors!

Thanks, Judie!



**All of us at YTA wish you and yours
a safe and joyous holiday season ...**

and that you enjoy as many outdoor activities as possible in this remarkable and beautiful natural world we are so fortunate as to call home. This year has been challenging and exciting, and YTA is not finished! In fact, we are always working to create, maintain, and improve our trail system for you to enjoy and more is in the works. We need your help to make this happen.

As 2020 ends, please remember Yavapai Trails Association in your end-of-the year giving. Up to \$300 is tax deductible in 2020 even if you do not itemize.

The Board at YTA www.Yavapai-trails.org

**VOLUNTEER WITH US GET INVOLVED
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Questions from the YTA Mailbox:

Can "thru" hikers camp along the Prescott Circle Trail?

Yes! And water is available at least at the campgrounds for re-supply. The 54 miles of the PCT is typically managed by thru hikers in a 4-day, three-night backpack. There are at least 15 access points to the trail. Consider starting at the Turley Trail and hiking clockwise. There are three established campgrounds along the trail: White Spar, Yavapai Campground in Granite Basin Recreational Area, and Watson Lake Campground.

Several resources that may aid your planning including downloading the Avenza map with the Circle Trail on it; picking up a copy of the City of Prescott Trail map; and/or purchasing a copy of the Guide to the Prescott Circle Trail, written by former YTA Board member Nigel Reynolds.

If you are parking your car, make sure you are leaving it in a "free" parking lot, and practice Leave No Trace principles while you are enjoying your trek.

**We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns.
Please reach out to us at Yavapai.trails@gmail.com**