



# Trail Tracks

YAVAPAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2022

## National Trails Day Celebration



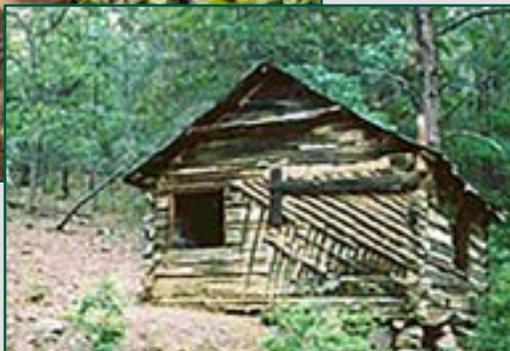
**National Trails Day (NTD)** on the first Saturday in June recognizes all the incredible benefits federal, state, and local trails provide for recreation and exposure to nature. Events held throughout the United States help promote awareness of the wide variety of services our trails systems offer. The day encourages people to discover their local trails, become active concerning trail issues, and share their excitement for the outdoors.

YTA celebrated NTD by hosting hikes on the popular Groom Creek Loop trail on June 4. One hike was the entire 9.5-mile loop (including Cole's Cabin) and the other hike was a 4-mile hike to the cabin and back. What a popular event! We had 49 individuals join us for the outing! All user groups, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, road bikers, and trail runners were represented; several came up from the Valley to enjoy NTD on Spruce Mountain and visit the cabin for the first time.

Many thanks to our hike leaders: Ellen Tyler, Bill Fanelli, John Stockman, and Louis Mackall.

**Hats off** to our swag bag organizer, Lisa Lafoon.

A HUGE shout out to our sponsors for our goodie bags, snacks, and refreshments: **Arizona Dermatology, Dream Weaver Coaching, and Sprouts.**



## Notes from the President



*By Ann Hendrickson, YTA President*

Recently I wrote a final report on an ACF grant YTA received for trail improvements on the Almosta trail system in Williamson Valley. Besides “matching” the grant dollars with cash, we also count our “in-kind” volunteer trail work hours.

Our partners on this project included Prescott National Forest, who hired one crew and provided staff support, and Back Country Horseman of Central Arizona ( BCHCAZ) who shared equally in our cash match requirement as well as volunteers.

Originally, we anticipated holding 4 volunteer workdays on this system. Based on the need, and volunteer willingness to participate, we held 5 volunteer work events. The number of volunteers far exceeded our expectations! We budgeted a “value” of \$8,000 of volunteer labor. We ended up with more than double that at \$20,875.15! Not only did we accomplish the completion of the rehabilitation of trail #1937, but we also had a wide representation of hikers, bikers, equestrians, and trail runners working together for a common goal. A bonus was a nice “youth” contingency joining their parents and working hard. On our final outing, we celebrated with a picnic lunch in the forest provided by BCHCAZ.

Personally, I never tire of these community trail workdays. I am humbled by the number of individuals who were willing to show up at 7:00 a.m. in 18-degree weather to hike a mile into our work site. I love witnessing individuals finding enjoyment in their sweat equity creating a job well done. Mostly, I get to meet new people and make new friends. We are such a diverse and giving community. I am so proud of all these people willing to give back to the trails they love. These are tremendous “community” events that not only create a lot of good will between the various trail users, but also provide an opportunity to educate people on how to create and maintain a sustainable trail.

## Featured Trail – Groom Creek Loop #307

Groom Creek Loop Trail #307 is one of the most attractive trails on the Prescott National Forest, offering a rewarding hike through the area’s forested high country. This trail passes through idyllic stands of ponderosa pine and Gambel oak as it climbs to the top of Spruce Mountain. While there are no actual spruce trees on the peak, there are Douglas fir and a number of other cone-bearing species that thrive in the cool mountain conditions. A picnic area, a vault toilet, and a lookout tower are located at the top of the trail. Hikers may visit the lookout tower when it is staffed, usually throughout the summer months. The views, of course, are stunning. For a shorter hike, hike NE from the trailhead to the top of the mountain and back. 7 miles • 1400’ gain.

Distance RT 9.4 miles • Accumulated gain 1700 feet • Moderate

Directions to trail: From Highway 69, turn south on Mount Vernon, aka The Senator Highway. From Gurley Street, drive Senator Highway for 6.4 miles. The trailhead will be to your left.



*Meet new Board member*

## John Stockman

While looking for a place to retire, John and Laurie Stockman learned of the options available in the Prescott National Forest and decided to relocate to the Prescott area to enjoy the hiking and mountain biking opportunities year-round. They especially like that the trails are varied in terrain, views and difficulty, while also providing many options for 'birding'. The Stockmans enjoy hiking the various trails with their 13-year-old husky, who still gets out for about four miles a day. They have tapped into the local hiking groups as a way to learn of different trails and meet other avid trail users. They have a lot of new trails yet to visit, but so far have particularly enjoyed the Granite Peak trails and riding in Spence Basin.

After utilizing a new bike trail system on the rims of the mountains near their Billings, MT neighborhood, John joined the WTA (Washington Trail Association) after moving to the Olympia area. While there, John was able to work on relocating trails in Rainier National Parks to assist with maintaining city and town park trails.

Having grown up in rural NY, John appreciates the efforts needed to maintain usable yards space, and came to enjoy the sense of a job well done after doing yard work. He expresses that same sense of accomplishment after a day working on trails, which is literally part of our shared backyard. Stockman looks forward to coordinating volunteer trail work days with YTA so we can all continue to enjoy the exquisite resources around us.



## Got Leash?

Back in January we highlighted an article regarding the need (and the law) regarding owners who take their dogs out on any trail system in Yavapai County must keep them on a 6-foot leash. The Prescott Trail Safety Coalition has continued to discuss the increasing numbers of owners who do not comply with the law. There have been many incidents where people have been injured trying to avoid loose dogs. Bike riders, equestrians, hikers, and other pet owners have experienced injury to themselves or their pets from loose pups.

YTA collaborated closely with our partners to create meaningful ways to educate community members regarding leash regulations. The first goal was to produce an educational video that can be publicized throughout the county regarding the safety of dogs on a leash on our trails.

A huge shout out to the many volunteers that came together to create this 2-minute video. You may recognize their faces when you see the video. These volunteers represent a host of organizations that cooperated to complete this production. A BIG thank you to the **City of Prescott** for providing the videographer, Robert, who is amazingly talented. Besides YTA, other organizations that contributed are the **Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County Sheriffs office, Prescott Mountain Bicycle Association, Back Country Horseman of Central Arizona, and Prescott Hiking Club.**

Here is a link to the video:

<https://youtu.be/eY1D1E3-gYs>

We ask that you each share it, again and again. Let's keep the message out there in the front of people's minds in the hopes of averting future injuries on our amazing trail system.

In addition, YTA utilized \$3,000 of Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) grant funding to design, fabricate, and install new "dog leash" signs at designated trailheads as a reminder to trail users who take their dogs with them on the trails.



**Have you thought about completing the Prescott Circle Trail as a backpack or bike pack trip?**

Here are some considerations before you set out on your camping sojourn. While a good digital map is available from the City of Prescott website, hikers/ bikers will want to get their hands on the City of Prescott print map brochure, available at the Hike Shack in town, or at several trailside kiosks. The detail is great, and it covers all the adjacent trails. See also the Prescott National Forest US Forest Service Map and Guide for the Prescott Circle Trail.

**PLAN AHEAD!** There are limited water sources, and camp sites, so one needs to plan before hitting the trail. (Water is available at the campgrounds and the lakes.) The Yavapai, White Spar, and Watson Lake Campgrounds are the only on-route camping options. Camping in the forest is allowed at designated sites only.

**PERMITS:** A permit is not necessary to hike/bike the trail, but camping, and sometimes parking, do require fees and potentially reservations for the campgrounds. There are first-come-first-served campsites available at the three campgrounds, but a reservation is preferred if your itinerary is certain. Yavapai Campground and White Spar Campground are managed by Prescott National Forest (PNF), Watson Lake by the city of Prescott.

**PARKING:** Many City of Prescott trailheads require a day fee, but there is no option for parking multiple days. Pioneer Park on Commerce Street has ample free parking and is close to the Prescott Circle Trail. The PNF has some free parking, check its website. Campsites have parking included.

**IS THE PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL DOG-FRIENDLY?**

Yes, you may hike with your dog, but they must be always kept on a leash. Also, keep in mind that this is a dry climate with limited water so you and your dog should carry sufficient water. You may want to consider dog footwear to protect your dog from spiky desert plants.

**REGULATIONS:**

- Follow Leave no Trace ethics at all times. Carry your trash to the next receptacle, usually only



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

**For Membership, visit:**  
[www.yavapai-trails.org](http://www.yavapai-trails.org)

**\$30 annually**



**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**Shop & Support Tavapai Trails Association**

Every year, Amazon through Amazon Smiles allows its customers the opportunity to give back to their communities simply through shopping. You can dsignate the Yavapai Trails Association to receive .5% of the eligible purchases at **no extra cost to you**. To sign up, visit [www.smile.amazon](http://www.smile.amazon).

found at campgrounds. Be tidy and clean when camping.

- Practice good trail etiquette. Bikers should yield to both hikers and horses.
- If nature calls while toilet facilities aren't available, bury your waste and pack out your TP to a trash bin.
- Respect private property. The trail passes near homes and kids' camps properties.
- Camp only in designated areas in the Prescott Basin zone of the National Forest.

Once you have completed the Circle Trail, remember to submit your Prescott Circle Trail Challenge form on the Yavapai Trails Association website. You will receive a certificate and your choice of a Prescott Circle Trail patch or Sticker. Congratulations!