



Trail Tracks

YAVAPAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Winter, 2023

YTA Volunteers are MAGNIFICENT!

By Ann Hendrickson, YTA President

The year is winding to an end and, as we prepare for 2023, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many successes we had in 2022 and I want to personally thank all of you: our members, partners, friends, donors, and our volunteers. Without ALL of you, YTA would not be as successful as we are! After being involved with trail systems for 14 years as a volunteer myself, I continue to be humbled by the willingness of others to continue to “give back” to the trails they use and love.



to see many of these bells in use throughout our trail system.

- The Prescott Circle Trail Challenge continues to be a popular community resource. Many thanks to Russ Lyon Sotheby’s International Realty for their

continued support of this Challenge. Annually hundreds push their limits to complete the marquee 56-mile route. Reading their stories is heartwarming, and a reflection of who we are as a diverse trail community.

Some of our 2022 Highlights:

- On National Trails Day, YTA did something different, we offered two different hikes on Spruce Mountain. Registration was overwhelming! With a capacity of 55, we met with a long waiting list, our hikers came far and wide, young, and old, newbies, and veterans. A perfect day to celebrate with newfound friends.
- With the help of a grant, and participation of Prescott Trail Safety Coalition partners, we developed an educational PSA, “Rope Up Your Pup” reminding trail users to leash their dogs while out on the trail. Dogs off leash continue to be a problem in Yavapai County, and we are doing our part to encourage pet owners to follow the law for the safety of all including pets.
- YTA joined in the “bells project,” another safety program designed by the PTSC, for the Granite Basin area. As an attempt to assuage trail issues between user groups, we initiated a “free bell” to put on a mountain bike to use in very high traffic areas. The bells can be returned at the end of the ride or kept for personal use. I am pleased

- On Oct. 22 (Make A Difference Day), YTA held a unique fundraiser for the Almosta Trails System. We hosted a trail event for ALL non-motorized trail users in the Granite Basin area. Never have all three user groups been out on the trails for an event at one time. It was flawless! Again, our volunteers worked hard to pull this off, donors were generous with the drawing items, and the lunch by Pangaea was awesome. A delightful day, and much needed funds were raised.

- Our unsung heroes behind the scenes: Lani Lott managing our FB presence, Mindy Luce, our website, Judie Hale, retired from many years on the board, she continues to manage our bookkeeping, and Joanne Polayes, who responds to our PCTC

completers. With the help of these invaluable

volunteers, YTA continues to have very low costs, so virtually all donations are put into the trails!

- YTA has devoted two years to the Almosta trails, which will be completed at the end of 2022. (We are waiting for new signs to be installed.) Our volunteers have contributed the equivalent of over \$50,000 of “work” these two years. Volunteers from ALL user groups have participated in renovating this

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

Dear Santa

YTA Wish List

In 2022, Yavapai Trails Association hosted monthly trail maintenance events on trails in the Greater Prescott area. These efforts have resulted in \$30,000 worth of volunteer labor that contributes to the sustainability and safety of our trail systems. Our trails would simply not be what they are without ongoing and a continuous volunteer workforce. Our needs are simple: We need new/replacement tools, supplies and funds to provide our volunteers with a snack and beverage at our work events. Please consider donating toward any of the following items Go to our website www.yavapai-trails.org and click on the DONATE button, then designate your donation toward the purchase of these needed items.

Silky Sagaws 420 handsaws	2 @ \$125	\$250.00
Silky handsaws	4 @ \$45.00	\$180.00
Ratchet suspension hardhats	8 @ \$25	\$200.00
Work gloves	10 pair @ \$20	\$200.00
Fiskar bypass loppers	8 sets @ \$50	\$400.00
Pulaski's	2 @ \$175.00	\$350.00
		\$1540.00

Before Black Friday and Cyber Monday, please consider registering with AmazonSmile! Every year, Amazon allows its customers the opportunity to give back to their local community, simply through shopping. Supporters like you have generated \$5 in donations to YTA through Amazon Smile to date. Thank you! Shop at smile.amazon.com and select Yavapai Trails Association as your charity and .05% of the price of eligible purchases will be donated back to us at no extra cost to you!

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PCT Challenge Completers in 2022

So far in 2022, there were 27 people who completed the Prescott Circle Trail Challenge and registered their completion with YTA. These hikers and mountain bikers, ranging from 14 to 74 years old, all enjoyed their trail experiences and praised the variety of views along the way. Particularly notable were 14-year-old Kyle Goodson who biked the trail in one day in October with his dad, Justin; and a group of 16-year-olds, including Carter Gullikson and Rachel Johnson, who hiked the trail all at once in about 24 hours in July! Others completed the trail alone or in groups, including the Trail Sisters of Prescott. Thank you all for appreciating and caring for our trails. ❄️

Many thanks to Jill Anderson and Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty for continuing to sponsor the PCTC. The PCTC will continue in 2023, so if you haven't finished, or submitted your record, you will have all of 2023 to do so. Completers receive a certificate and a choice of a PCT patch, mini first aide kit, PCT sticker, or a bolo tie. ❄️

Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 22, 2022, started out chilly and breezy with brilliant sunshine providing a little warmth. Around 6:30AM a small group of volunteers rolled into the Williamson Valley Trailhead. Soon the trailhead would be crawling with activity. Why? Because it was Yavapai Trails Association's Make a Difference Day Event.

National Make a Difference Day began in 1992 and continues to be recognized every fourth Saturday in October. The purpose of this day is to remind us that we can have an impact on society and to encourage action in giving, especially with small local nonprofit groups. This was the perfect day for YTA to hold an event geared to raise matching funds for one of our local non-motorized trail systems.

Make a Difference Day with YTA was a unique event including two hikes, a mountain bike ride, and an equestrian ride and designed to include all trail users and non-motorized groups. Its purpose was to raise matching funds for the 30-mile Almosta Trail System. YTA, along with our partners, has spent the last two years raising funds, writing grants, and hosting volunteer trail maintenance events to restore this trail system to a sustainable, safe, and enjoyable outdoor experience. The event was supported by fifty-three individuals representing all non-motorized groups. We were fortunate to have Ellen Tyler, Louis Mackall, Jim Kominski, and Craig Ferdig for guides. A big thank you to them.

Following the rides, the groups enjoyed a delicious lunch from Pangaea Bakery and some refreshing cold beverages. After lunch came the prize drawing. A super big thank you to the local businesses who donated all the wonderful prizes. Thank you also to Alex Hall and his guitar for the musical ambiance. A round of applause as well for the many volunteers! Our biggest THANK YOU goes to all fifty-three individual donors who participated in the event. Your donations will go directly to the Almosta Trail System and allow YTA to match grant funds. We cannot do this work without people like you. You truly made a difference to this community.

Thank you. ❄️



YTA Volunteer Spotlight

Tis the season to celebrate and we are especially grateful for the gifts our volunteers give us all year round: their time, care and skills.

Lani Lott



Lani making mileage

Lani Lott's love for the outdoors started at a very young age with annual vacations somewhere in a forest with her family. Years later she shared the appreciation of those adventures with her own family, her husband and three kids, as they would head off to a national park for hiking, horse-back riding, fishing and just running wild in the woods enjoying nature. Lani now

resides in Phoenix where she enjoys some hiking and operates her economic development and downtown revitalization consulting business. Lani is also the acting part time Executive Director for the Arizona Heritage Alliance where she maintains their website among other tasks. When YTA put out a call for the need of assistance with their Facebook page, Lani didn't hesitate to volunteer. Though she lives in Phoenix, she couldn't be happier with the opportunity to join forces with our amazing organization. ✨

Mindy Luce



Mindy Luce is also a Phoenix area resident who realizes that the distance to Prescott is worth the reward. She ran across Yavapai Trails Association president Ann Hendrickson at a hiking event that she saw promoted. "I thought it was a clean-up day, so I recruited a bunch of my hiking friends to come," admits Mindy. They enjoyed the hike and the conversation. Afterward, after receiving a mailing from YTA asking for volunteers to be webmaster for the web page, she jumped at the chance. Mindy loves hiking around Prescott and especially likes the trails around Watson Lake. She has hiked and kayaked around the area and plans to come frequently. Mindy is also planning to complete the Prescott Circle Trail in the coming year. ✨

Trail Math - Volunteers Needed!

We enjoy over 400 miles of trails within 15 minutes of where we live. No other community can boast of such diverse outdoor recreation at their doorstep. The price of this luxury is that it must be routinely maintained in a sustainable manner.

A typical volunteer trail crew of 12 can "brush" 1/4th of a mile in a 4-hour work session. A mile of trail requires at least 200 hours of work. 200 hours X 400 miles = 80,000 hours of labor just to brush the trails. Now, the standard is that a trail (hopefully) is updated once every 5 years. Therefore, every year a minimum of 16,000 hours of work are needed or the equivalent of 7.5 people working full time! This does not include new construction, major trail restoration, rock work, bridge replacement, etc.

The bottom line is our trail system NEEDS YOU TO VOLUNTEER! Join the OTHG crew of City of Prescott, or Prescott National Forest, or sign up for volunteer trail workdays with YTA or any (and all) of the other trail user groups. If you can't join a crew, please financially support the groups who are maintaining our trails. ✨

Joanne Polayes



Hiking in Iceland

Joanne Polayes moved to Prescott from Seattle 10 years ago after she and her husband retired. Professionally, Joanne was an environmental specialist at Washington State Department of

Ecology. An avid hiker, accessibility to trails was indeed a major draw for Polayes. She has now hiked many Prescott trails multiple times, and she is happy to be able to give back by volunteering for the Yavapai Trails Association. Joanne also enjoys bicycling, gardening, exploring the Southwest, traveling back to the Pacific Northwest, and traveling abroad. Hence, her photo from a recent trip to Iceland. ✨



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

For Membership, visit:
www.yavapai-trails.org

\$30 annually



Welcome to the YTA Board

Lisa Lafoon

Originally from Southern California, Lisa Andrews-Lafoon had a high-powered career in real estate management. After an early retirement, she moved to Arizona and became a certified life coach. Visiting Prescott over the years, she was truly delighted for the opportunity to call it home in 2017. “As a hiker, I have a serious love affair with the trails in this area, as well as with the community of Prescott, in general,” Lisa shares. As a life coach, Lisa teaches young adults the importance of giving back to their communities. YTA has obviously been a perfect fit for Lisa to live the life she preaches about giving back to what she refers to as her ‘beloved community’. Most days you can find Lisa hiking the trails and snapping photos along the way. ❄



Ameena Azzouni

Ameena Azzouni moved to the Phoenix area in 1984 from St. Louis. Prescott became a favorite destination in Arizona and she was able to live here part time 6 years ago. Today Ameena is happy to claim Prescott as home. After 30 years working as a paralegal at law firms, corporations and with state government, primarily in



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beautiful trail system. PNE, and BCHCAZ have partnered with the entire scope of the project.

Looking ahead, YTA is working on a couple of Trail Head improvements/builds, renovations to a Circle Trail segment, and expanded efforts on the Peavine trail in the Chino Valley area and beyond. Your thoughts, ideas, and comments are always welcome. And roll up your sleeves and join us on a rewarding trail work event (posted on the website) in 2023! ❄



Hard at work on the Almosta Trail

Ameena (continued)

environmental law, Ameena has begun to carve a new path. She got her real estate license and though her work helping to facilitate environmental clean-ups was very satisfying, being a real estate agent is satisfying AND fun. Plus, Ameena now has more time to do volunteer work with YTA. She states, “I’m a longtime hiker and outdoor fitness enthusiast, and it’s a privilege to help create and maintain the amazing trails that surround us.” ❄