



TRAIL TRACKS

Yavapai Trails Association

President's Message

By Lisa Lafoon, YTA President

It is always a tough position to be in when you need to fill the shoes of a predecessor who did great things. This is the situation I find myself in here at Yavapai Trails Association. Not only my immediate predecessor but also those before her. So, since it is impossible to step into their shoes, I will humbly step next to them. It is a great honor to have been selected as President of this organization and a responsibility I take seriously. I have an overwhelming love for trails. I feel like the trails take care of me, and now I must care for them.

I know most of you have not met me in person, or maybe you did, and you just don't realize it. Over the past year I have been working with YTA doing a lot of fun and interesting things like Thirsty Third Thursday, holding down our booth at Prescott Farmer's Market, creating and administering the Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge (along with a group of amazing volunteers) and enjoying the volunteers who joined YTA to bar tend at the Rodeo. Or perhaps it was when I snapped your picture during a trail work event. All in all, it's been a great year for YTA and now we are nearing the end of it. What is on my mind for 2024? Yavapai Trails Association will of course continue to maintain, preserve, and connect trails. You will continue to hear the call for volunteers for trail workdays. We rely on our amazing volunteers for these events. It is always awe-inspiring for me to see volunteers come out and work together; with tons of extra water in the heat. Man! We love our volunteers. Throughout 2024 my focus will be on building future stewards of the trails. As well as giving appreciation to those who have been stewards of the trails for

years. It is always a beautiful thing to see the experienced trail worker teaching the newbies all the tricks of the trade. With over 400 miles of trails in our area, we will have plenty of opportunities to do just that.

YTA also has a need for volunteers of the administrative type. Currently we would love to find people who enjoy putting events together. Some who are comfortable with fund-raising. And someone who can help keep our marketing tools up to date.



Can you be the person to organize the Rodeo fund raiser in 2024? Will you join me at the Prescott Farmer's Market? How about Happy Hour? Volunteers are the lifeblood of YTA, full stop. YTA cannot exist without you.

We also cannot exist without our members. Your yearly membership with YTA means we can do projects that require a grant match (like the Chino Valley Peavine connection) as well as smaller (but important) projects. If you are not currently a member, please consider helping in

this way. YTA always promises to put your dues and contributions to work in a manner most effective for our shared non-motorized trails. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing many happy hours working with you.



YYTC FEATURED TRAIL: CONSTELLATION TRAIL

By YYTC Administrator

After our committee has worked so hard to put together the Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge this year, YTA would like to feature a trail from this challenge periodically in our newsletter. The Constellation Trail was our first up for the trails challenge. Two volunteers went out to hike it and map a nice route that would highlight some of the special features of this trail. This write up worked as the template for all the trail write ups.

USE: Hiking and Mountain biking (Easy to moderate)

DISTANCE: 2.40 miles

ELEV GAIN: 236 ft

TIME: Trail is open year-round

DESCRIPTION: This hike has fantastic views. The loop trail winds up and down through the boulders. There are some short steep segments over the ancient granite.

The pinyon, juniper and oak provide shade near the beginning of the trail. Otherwise, you are open to the elements. Follow the white dots when walking on the granite. Stay on the designated trail.

When starting from the trail head consider taking a right at the fork. If you deviate from the outer trail and take the “Ham and Cheese”, you can get back on the outer trail by taking “Hully Gully” back.

You will see the memorial on your way back to the parking lot.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: When on AZ-89 South, exit the traffic circle onto Constellation Trail (0.6 mile south of Pioneer Parkway/89A). \$3.00 parking fee or City of Prescott Parking Pass required at Trail Head (free Wednesdays).



INFORMATION: In 2008, the City of Prescott purchased (with designated open-space funds) an 80 acre parcel where the popular Constellation Trail now navigates over large boulders while winding through the Granite Dells.



In February 1959, a military plane flying out of California crashed for unknown reasons on the west side of AZ 89 killing all five men on board. The plane was a Lockheed Constellation, hence the name of this trail system.

In October 2011, a memorial was erected to record this tragedy. Momentum for a proper monument took off when a young gentleman by the name of Cody Walker took on the project for his Eagle Scout ranking. The vision of a memorial with a concrete bench, wall and a bronze plaque paying tribute to the fallen were all put into motion. As with most Eagle Scout projects, community businesses donated most of the materials.

Farther along the trail, look for a rock wall on both sides of the trail in a rough circle (see map). This crude corral was probably built by shepherds a century ago to protect their flock overnight.

<https://prescottlivingmag.com/constellation-trail/>
<https://highlandscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/maps/2013/01.%20Constellation.pdf>

The Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge is a FREE challenge open to all youth ages 8-18 in Yavapai County. If you would like to learn more about the Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge, please visit us at www.yavapai-trails.org and click on the YYTC tab.

TRAIL WORK UPDATES MEMBER INPUT REQUESTED

YTA's volunteer trail workers have been busy over the last few months. Since June of 2023 the group has been working on Salida Gulch trail #95. We began our trail brushing on National Trails Day and continued for the next few monthly workdays. Salida Gulch is looking pretty again, and we couldn't be happier. This is also one of the trails in YTA's Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge and a very popular location for all trail users. YTA has since moved over to help the Prescott National Forest Service build out trail #264. Our last trail workday of this year will be with the Forest Service at this location on December 2, 2023. We hope you have already RSVP'd for this event. This is a little different type of work than we usually do, but it is sometimes interesting to do something new.

Now YTA would like to give you, our members, some homework. We know you are all out enjoying our area's amazing trail system. While you are out there you undoubtedly come across some trails that could use some brushing work. Please, send us your suggestions. We are planning for 2024 and we want to include the trails that matter to you (and that need a little attention). We will have a big project next year (likely in the spring) working on connecting the Peavine in Chino Valley. That aside, we will still have our regular monthly workdays. So, let's hear it. Where should we work in 2024? Send us an email to yavapai.trails@gmail.com and let us know. We look forward to your input. Happy Trails!



CITY OF PRESCOTT UPDATE

Recently, Chris Hosking from the City of Prescott gave a trail update on Facebook. Below is a summary of his post.

There is a new trail to the Storm Trails — 0.6 miles to Peavine from the old 89a bridge by old piñon pines. Over the Hill Gang (OTGH) and Chris made this key connection. Parking will be improve eventually, so parallel-park considerately for now.

Peavine north of 89a open 3ish miles. The agreement with the state is getting closer to allow the connection to Chino Valley.

Bean Peaks Trail building has started. Trail Solutions, OTGH, and Chris all working on sections. Please stay out of the way for now due to heavy equipment. There will be a trail workday next month (date TBD). Fundraising is close for phase 1.

Granite Creek Corridor Trail in downtown is finished.

Enjoy all these new trails!

Big news with the purchase of more Dells and Glassford Hill land -2400ish acres collaboration between COP, PV and county.

Next year will hopefully include more Dells trails, Stringfield Ranch trail (Williamson Valley to Granite Basin), Peavine to Chino, more Granite Dells Estates trails, more Bean Peak Trails, etc.

Please get involved with volunteering for trail workdays. Both the city of Prescott and Prescott National Forest appreciate and need your help.



ANN HENDRICKSON FAREWELL

As you are probably aware, Ann Hendrickson recently turned the reins of YTA over to Lisa Lafoon, our new President. While Ann has stepped away from her official role at YTA her commitment to trails will continue both in Yavapai County and beyond as she has accepted a 3-year State of AZ Trails planning assignment and she will continue her involvement with Appalachian Trail. YTA would like to thank Ann for leading our organization for the past 4 years. Her immense passion for trail maintenance as well as her goal of getting many people out on the trails have resulted in successes such as creation of the popular (and growing!) Prescott Circle Trail Challenge, the newly developed Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge and future extension of the Peavine Trail north to Chino Valley and beyond. Even while leading YTA as President, one could always find Ann at trail workdays performing the most challenging trail work-digging/repairing drains, rock armoring, etc. and the smile on her face would grow as the



work became more physically demanding. Ann also successfully obtained several financial grants to fund trail work and other trail programs which allows YTA to continue its mission.



While we are sad to say goodbye to Ann, we are thankful for her years of leadership and positioning of YTA for continued success. And we look forward to crossing paths with her out on the trails!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please visit <http://www.yavapai-trails.org>
Click on get involved and start supporting your trails today.

Thank you!

