



TRAIL TRACKS

Yavapai Trails Association

SUMMER 2025

President's Message

By Lisa Lafoon, YTA President

While you've been out enjoying the trails this summer, Yavapai Trails Association has been hard at work for you. So alright, we've also been out enjoying the trails. To be honest we work hard for our own enjoyment as much as yours. So just what have we been working on?

Our volunteers have been helping the Prescott National Forest and Over the Hill Gang build the new trail #742. This trail will be accessible from the new Copper Basin trailhead. The PNF has mapped this out to provide some connection opportunities for the Quaky trail (741) and Moby trail (737). The opportunity to help build this has been a real pleasure (and quite a bit of work) for our volunteers. If they keep at the current pace, this should be ready to hike/ride very soon.

Another fun project has been enhancing the benefits offered to our members. Currently your paid membership gets you a 10% discount at The Hike Shack in downtown Prescott. (We would like to thank The Hike Shack for their long-time support of YTA and outdoor recreation in general.) We are expanding this discount program to include some additional businesses. We are currently gathering participants for this program and should be ready to send the enhanced discounts out to all

our members in early 2026.

Our events chair is already getting to work on our next Safety Saturday. This next event will be all about trail navigation, because this is what you asked for. We hope to have this very informative event ready for February 2026.

YTA along with Back Country Horsemen of CAZ, Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance, and Prescott Trail Riders are also currently preparing a volunteer appreciation picnic with the Prescott National Forest. This event will be

held November 1st at the Thumb Butte Recreation Area. If you have performed trail maintenance or building in the Prescott National Forest, you are invited. This includes our friends in the Verde Valley and of course the members of Over the Hill Gang.

As always, the YTA board of directors has been busy advocating for your trail access, safety, and courteous use. We've also been working on a big new project north of

Chino Valley. This one is going to remain a secret until we find out whether we have received the requested grant funding for it. And yes, that is tease for a big announcement in our Fall 2025 newsletter.

Until next time- Be safe. Be Responsible. Be nice.

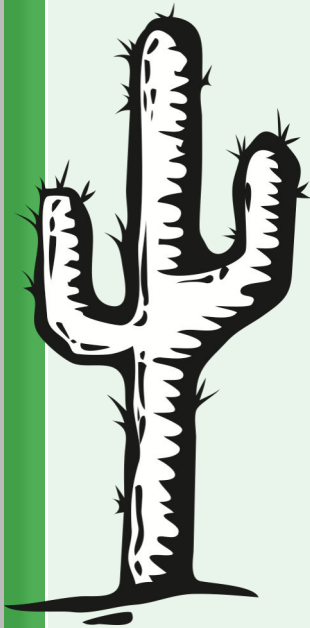


MEET KRISTY DIAZ-TRAHAN

In June the City of Prescott welcomed a new Recreation Services Director. We are happy to meet Kristy Diaz-Trahan and look forward to working with her and the City of Prescott on many interesting projects in our region. Kristy is a respected leader with over 25 years of experience in Arizona parks and recreation. She brings a



strong record of innovation, collaboration, and community-centered service to her new role as Recreation Services Director. Kristy's most recent role has been as Recreation Division Manager of Pima County. Prior to working with Pima County, Kristy served as Parks and Recreation Director for the town of Oro Valley. As you can see Kristy has many years of professional parks and recreation management under her belt.



Would you like to meet Kristy in person and learn more about her vast experience or chat with her regarding the future of Prescott outdoor recreation? Kristy will be joining us for the September 18th happy hour at Whiskey River Tavern. Please join Kristy and YTA for a casual evening of trail talk.

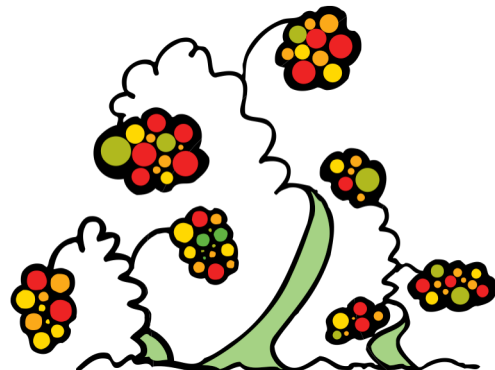
MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER: JENNIFER HAHN

Jennifer "Jen" Hahn comes to us from Iowa via Colorado. Jen is very much an outdoors enthusiast. She has visited the trails in all 50 states, loves to hike, and has completed many trail challenges. (She is also a serious animal and wildlife lover. We like this about her.) We are absolutely thrilled



to have her join our board. Jen's special talent is for conversation, something YTA thrives on. So, look for Jen at our networking, advocating, and social events. She'll be there asking questions and sharing trail stories. If you are a trail trekking animal lover, you'll enjoy her company as much as we do.

Welcome Jen, YTA is very excited to have you on board with us.



YTA TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Over the last few months YTA has been working on routine maintenance of trail #349, Balancing Rock. We're continuing to go back to this trail until it is completely done.

We have also had the opportunity to help the Prescott National Forest and Over the Hill Gang build the new trail #742. This new trail will leave from the new Copper Basin Trailhead. The Copper Basin Trailhead is 0.8 miles past the Aspen Creek Trailhead. This new Copper Basin Trailhead also connects to West Spruce Connection Trail across the road giving access to a wide array of trails in this area. Copper Basin Trailhead is also bigger than Aspen Creek Trailhead providing more parking access for this area.

If you have ever wanted to experience trail building, now would be a great time to volunteer. Keep an eye out for the next build date.

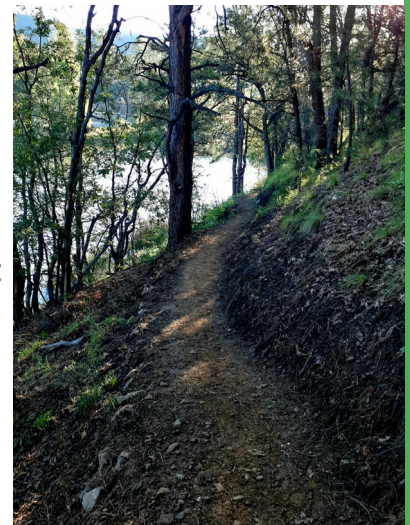
Also of note, YTA is looking to build a few more crew leaders. Our crew leaders would need to be available to lead a crew four times a year. There is some training and paperwork plus basic first aid and CPR certification is needed. If you do not have this certification, YTA can help you get one (and cover the cost). If you are interested, please email us at Yavapai.trails@gmail.com



NEW BENEFITS COMING FOR MEMBERS

We are very happy to announce a couple of new or expanded benefits for our members. First, coming in 2026 all members will receive an updated and expanded discount card. Well, it'll actually look more like a document. However, the document will list the participating businesses in our "Give and Receive" program. Currently, you have a 10% discount at The Hike Shack in downtown Prescott. Starting in 2026 you'll still have this discount PLUS several more from other local and super cool businesses. YAY!!

Second, after 3 years of whining, begging, and doing paperwork, the Prescott National Forest is offering a free volunteer parking pass. How do you get one? You will need to complete 20 volunteer hours in a calendar year on the YTA trail maintenance team. YTA's Director of Field Operations, John Seng, will turn your hours into the proper personnel at the PNF and then the PNF will contact you to come pick up the pass. This makes it a great time to sign up for trail workdays (and don't forget to sign in at the trailhead. This sheet will be our paper backup for your volunteer hours).



2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are some important dates to remember. We hope you are able to join us for some of these events. As always, YTA will post these to our Facebook page and send via emails. If you would like to get email reminders, please let us know by sending an email requesting addition to our email list to:

Yavapai.trails@gmail.com

- September 11th -YTA Board Meeting
- September 13th - Trail Work
- September 18th - Thirsty Third Thursday
- September 20th - YTA is at the Prescott Farmers Market
- September 27th - Trail Work
- October 9th- YTA Board Meeting
- October 11th – Trail Work
- October 16th – Thirsty Third Thursday. This will be the last for this year.
- October 18th – YTA is at Prescott Farmers Market. This will be our last date for this year.
- October 25th – Trail Work
- November 1st – Trail Work Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
- November 8th – Trail Work
- November 13th – YTA Board Meeting

****If you have volunteered for trail work on the Prescott National Forest any time this year, you are invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Please watch our social media pages and emails for the official flyer and RSVP request.**



Have you considered becoming a member? Your membership allows us to continue planning, maintaining, preserving, connecting, and advocating for our trails. Please go to our website www.yavapai-trails.org click on the membership tab and join. It's the easiest way to support our trails. Thank You!