

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

# LEADERSHIP

THE ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, AND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OVER THE PAST YEAR.

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Cover photo & this page: Larry Simkins  
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## MISSION

TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE, PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN THE ARIZONA TRAIL AS A UNIQUE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LAND.

## VISION

A CONTINUOUS, NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL TRAVERSING 800 MILES FROM MEXICO TO UTAH, LINKING DESERTS, MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, CANYONS, COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE.



Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

Last year the Arizona Trail Association celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a nonprofit organization. In an effort to preserve the rich history of the trail we dug deep into our archives to find the most important gems so the Arizona Trail story would be preserved. We partnered with the Cline Library's Special Collections Department at Northern Arizona University, who will catalog, archive and make publicly available the history of the AZT and the ATA. After all, this is the most successful outdoor service project in

Arizona's history and is a story that should be told and retold over time. Reviewing old photographs, reading early newspaper articles and immersing myself in the history of the Arizona Trail revealed the secret of the trail's charm...it's the people.

The history of the Arizona Trail is made up of colorful characters who believed in the early dream of a cross-state trail from Mexico to Utah, undertook laborious efforts to gain permission for trail construction, and then grabbed tools and headed for the hills. The relationships forged through hard work and commitment to a common goal built the strong foundation upon which we continue living the dream every day. As the trail changes and ages, it's vital to collect stories and information to help inform future trail leaders. We welcome you to contribute your "Arizona Trail moments" so they become part of the greater AZT history book.

Please enjoy reading this Annual Report with the knowledge that your support makes it all possible. Every new mile of trail built, every tree properly limbed to create a safe path through the wilderness, and every tool we put into the hands of a young person and empower them to care for our public lands is a direct result of your contributions. Every time you hear exciting news about the Arizona Trail, please know that **we** did this. Whether you're a member, donor, volunteer, business partner, land management agency staff, gateway community representative, Trail Angel, educator, event participant or AZT merchandise collector – **you are the Arizona Trail**. Please celebrate our collective accomplishments over the past year (and 25 years!) and help us maintain momentum to make this the greatest trail in America.

If you're looking for meaningful goals this year, please review our priority projects on page 14 and think about ways you can be involved. With support from people like you we'll be able to make significant improvements to the Arizona Trail. Not only is that an investment in your personal hiking, running, mountain biking and horseback riding experiences; it's an act of selflessness that will benefit thousands of others.

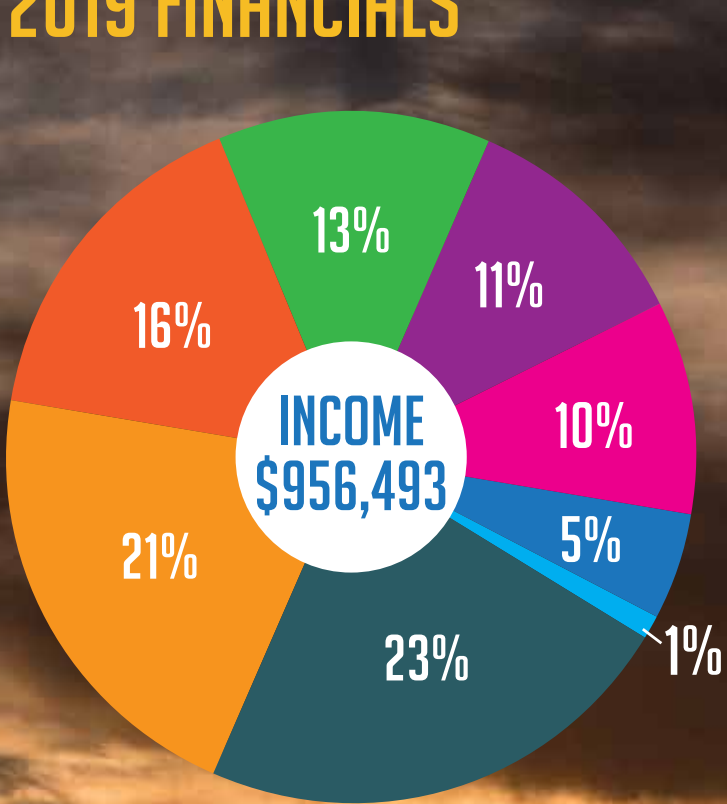
I am so proud to be part of the Arizona Trail Association, and I hope you are, too.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Nelson  
Executive Director

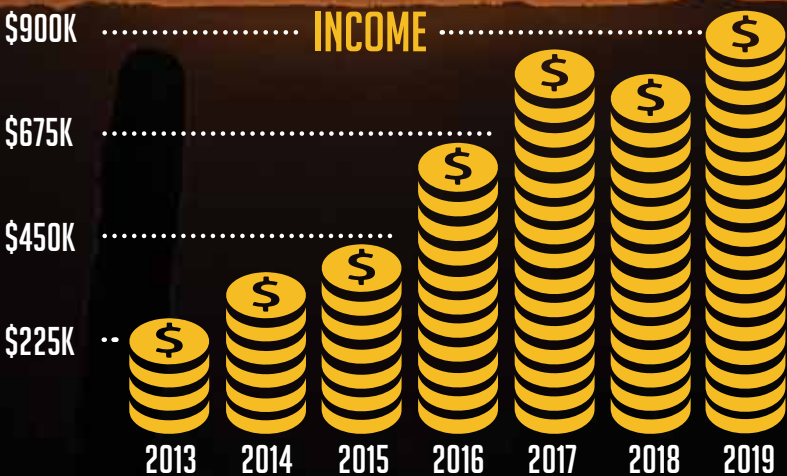
**"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE DO, BUT WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."  
- WINSTON CHURCHILL**

# 2019 FINANCIALS



- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS & CORPORATE DONATIONS
- MEMBERSHIP
- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- MERCHANDISE
- OTHER

- TRAIL OPERATIONS
- ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES
- SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- FUNDRAISING
- MEMBERSHIP
- MERCHANDISE
- CONSULTING & CONTRACTORS
- WEBSITE, MAPS, & PUBLIC INFORMATION
- GATEWAY COMMUNITIES



One of the biggest financial successes of 2019 was the Arizona State Legislature approving a \$250,000 appropriation into the Arizona Trail State Fund. This funding will be used to hire conservation corps members to conduct priority maintenance and construction projects on the Arizona Trail. This funding is not reflected in ATA financials since the money goes directly from the State Fund to American Conservation Experience and Arizona Conservation Corps. We are proud that Arizona is investing in the Arizona Trail (a State Scenic Trail) and the young people who may be our future trail stewards and land managers.

# MEMBERSHIP

Arizona Trail Association membership continues to grow steadily. New memberships and renewals occur daily, strengthening the community of individuals that help sustain the Arizona Trail. The ATA offers a variety of membership levels and benefits, from the \$20 Prickly Pear level for students to the \$2,500 Bristlecone Pine level for philanthropists, with special premiums offered to members donating at higher levels.



## MEMBERS FROM



# MISSION RESPONSIBILITY HIGHLIGHTS

THE ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION IS THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE, PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN THE ARIZONA TRAIL AS A UNIQUE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LAND. EACH YEAR, THE ATA MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WITHIN EACH OF THESE MISSION RESPONSIBILITIES. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019, MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR MEMBERS, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS:

## PROTECT

The ATA believes the most effective way to protect the Arizona Trail is by engaging thousands of individuals in the exploration, appreciation and stewardship of the trail. In addition to volunteer engagement, media outreach, special events, youth outdoor programs, gateway community relationship building, and promotion, the ATA worked closely with federal land management agencies to integrate long-term trail corridor protection strategies into their management plans. The ATA met with private companies whose proposed activities may have adverse impacts to the Arizona Trail to ensure impacts will be minimized and, if their project is approved, there will be a net gain to trail resources. The ATA continues to partner with other nonprofit organizations whose missions closely align with ours on specific initiatives that will protect the Arizona Trail, its natural and cultural resources, and the economies of the gateway communities that rely on the outdoor recreation industry for their vitality.

In addition to advocating for permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and support for the uranium mining withdrawal on the South Rim of Grand Canyon, the ATA has been heavily involved in the development of the Arizona National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan being written by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Once the Plan is signed by the Chief of the USFS it will provide management guidance to all federal agencies and will be a major step forward in the long-term protection of the trail.


## MAINTAIN

Since 1994, the ATA has trained and coordinated tens of thousands of volunteers to help build and maintain the Arizona Trail. In 2019, 2,271 volunteers contributed at least 22,400 hours of service, valued at \$570,000. As the deferred maintenance backlog piles up on National Forests and within National Parks, the ATA is working hard to keep all 800 miles of the AZT safe and accessible for all.

For projects beyond the reach of volunteers, the ATA hired young professionals from various conservation corps to address priority maintenance projects along some of the most remote segments of the trail. The ATA also contracted machine operators for specific projects outside wilderness areas where a machine was necessary for moving tons of dirt, large boulders, and intensive rockwork.

## ENHANCE

Protecting and maintaining the trail is paramount, but the ATA is also committed to improving the AZT. Enhancements include improved water resources; upgraded trailhead and navigational signs; development of digital navigational resources; installation of rollovers alongside existing gates; and replacing old gates with steel AZT Super Gates to protect the trail from motorized abuse and accommodate the needs of all trail users. The ATA has also been working to get the AZT off dirt roads by building sustainable trail nearby, and both the Happy Jack Singletrack and Canelo Hills Re-Route projects were completed in 2019.



Among our most significant enhancement accomplishments was the installation of a remote rainwater collector along one of the AZT's driest segments. See page 12 for more information.

### PROMOTE

The ATA is constantly promoting the Arizona Trail through development and distribution of digital and printed resources; outreach to media; coordination with gateway communities; distribution of the Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbook; organization of special events on the trail; presentations at community events; and much more. The ATA works closely with the Arizona Office of Tourism, Arizona State Parks & Trails, convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, and local businesses to help increase awareness of the cross-state trail. The Arizona Trail is promoted on social media, rounding out the year with over 15,400 Facebook followers, 11,700 Instagram followers, and 3,000 Twitter followers.

Our most successful promotional event of the year occurred in September when we hosted Arizona Trail Day at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff. The free, family-friendly event included dozens of information booths and hands-on activities intended to get trail users and community members excited about the Arizona Trail, as well as live music, engaging presenters, and friendly faces. We also worked with community partners to organize dozens of Trailblazing 25 Events in celebration of our 25th anniversary.

Media professionals continue to help promote the Arizona Trail through articles, broadcasts, blogs and much more. The ATA maintains a list of most of these through the **In the News** page at [aztrail.org](http://aztrail.org).

### SUSTAIN

Creating a sustainable environment for the trail means attracting volunteers, members and partners who will repeatedly contribute time and funds to the Arizona Trail into the future. The ATA's programs and activities are funded by our 1,636 individual members, 1,379 individual donors, 19 Legacy Partners, 105 Business Partners, as well as private grants, federal assistance agreements, special fundraising events, and merchandise sales. Building a sustainable future for the Arizona Trail isn't just about funds; it's also about creating awareness and providing an opportunity for exposure to the outdoors. By maintaining relationships with 22 schools across Arizona, the ATA's Seeds of Stewardship programs provided thousands of young people meaningful opportunities to connect with the trail. It's this connection that instills a sense of commitment to the AZT that young participants will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

One of the ways Arizona Trail supporters continue to sustain the ATA is through legacy gifts. Over the past year, the ATA received financial contributions from seven friends who passed away in 2019. By naming the Arizona Trail Association as a beneficiary in your living will or trust you will sustain the important legacy of the Arizona Trail.

# TRAIL OPERATIONS

Wendy Lotze Photo

In addition to ongoing efforts of trail stewards, hiking groups, saddle clubs, mountain biking teams, trail running groups, Boy Scouts, gateway community members, the Usual Suspects, and myriad others who helped make the ATA's Trail Operations program successful, the ATA contracted conservation corps to do some of the heavy lifting in 2019. These include young professionals from American Conservation Experience and Arizona Conservation Experience.

Each of the AZT's 43 passages received maintenance in 2019, but here are just a few of our proudest accomplishments:

## CANELO HILLS RE-ROUTE

In an effort to remove the AZT from dirt roads and arroyos in the Canelo Hills, we built 4 miles of trail in a very remote location with the help of volunteers, a machine operator and conservation corps members. The project is beneficial for trail users, wildlife and local residents alike.

## TEMPORAL GULCH PASSAGE RE-ROUTE

In preparation for the most significant re-route in AZT history, ATA staff worked closely with the Coronado National Forest, private landowners, Arizona Game & Fish Department, natural and cultural resource management specialists, and many others to develop a trail re-route near the town of Patagonia. Once approved by federal agencies, construction can begin on this 32-mile endeavor that will replace paved and dirt roads with sustainable and scenic singletrack.

## CHERRY VALLEY WASH IMPROVEMENTS

Crossing under roadways can sometimes be problematic, and the culvert under Highway 77 near the town of Oracle is a particularly challenging location. Working together with local trail stewards, ranchers, AmeriCorps volunteers and a talented machine operator, we cleaned out tons of sand in the culvert, removed the most problematic wire gate on the entire AZT, relocated a fence line, and installed a steel AZT Super Gate.

## WOODBURY FIRE STABILIZATION

As soon as the Superstition Mountains were determined to be safe after the Woodbury Fire, a team of ATA Staff and Stewards hiked the 30 miles of trail impacted by the blaze. Photographs and written assessments were provided to the Tonto National Forest, and we worked together to develop a plan for emergency trail stabilization. Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funds were secured and Arizona Conservation Corps was put to work to make critical improvements to the Arizona Trail.

## COTTONWOOD CANYON RE-ROUTE

Working closely with American Conservation Experience, we were able to remove 0.5-mile of ankle-rolling and sometimes flowing creek bed onto freshly built trail nearby. That same group helped clear the trees and hillside debris that was deposited into Cottonwood Canyon after the Woodbury Fire.



DANPhoto



Wendy Lotze Photo





Wendy Lotze Photo

### HAPPY JACK SINGLETRACK

We built 16 miles of trail this year and finished the 18.8-mile project that replaces forest roads with sustainable singletrack on the Coconino National Forest's Mogollon Rim Ranger District. We also installed 6 gates; 4 water source and reassurance signs; 11 steel AZT emblem signs; 3 steel hitching rails; and 1 three-panel trailhead kiosk; and removed over 100 carsonite sign posts from the old route. Thanks to your support we finished this project one year ahead of schedule.

### BABBITT RANCH SINGLETRACK

Once we secured permission from Babbitt Ranches to build trail across the CO Bar Ranch between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon—which will remove the AZT from dusty ranch roads—we immediately went to work. Eleven miles of trail have been constructed by machines and hand tools, and we plan to finish the remaining 4.2 miles by summer of 2020.

### NORTH KAIBAB TRAILHEAD FENCES

The iconic log fences at AZT Trailheads on the Kaibab Plateau had deteriorated and were in need of replacement, so the North Kaibab Ranger District salvaged local trees that had been cut as part of a forest thinning project, then had them delivered to the Murray Lake and Kaibab Plateau Trailheads. ATA volunteers rallied during the pleasant summer months to move the logs into position and create fences that are as strong as they are aesthetically pleasing.



Shawn Redfield Photo

### TRAILHEAD SIGNS

To assist with navigation, celebrate local history, highlight regional wildlife, reinforce Leave No Trace and Share the Trail ethics, and improve the visitor experience, the ATA designed, fabricated and installed new trailhead signs at Canelo Pass, Harshaw Road, La Posta Quemada, La Selvilla, Bushnell Tanks, Washington Park, Gooseberry Springs, Aspen Corner, Grandview Lookout Tower and Russell Tank.

### SHADE RAMADAS

Thanks to the Tonto National Forest, we salvaged four steel shade ramadas from Roosevelt Lake and erected two of them at the Pine Trailhead. The two others are awaiting a home at a future AZT trailhead.

### STEEL GATES AND ROLLOVERS

Thanks to Rob Bauer's outstanding metalwork skills, we installed steel gates at important locations to protect the trail from motorized trespass, including Anderson Mesa, Sunnyside Canyon, Bradshaw Tank, Cross F Ranch, and numerous others statewide. We also installed steel rollovers at 7 locations, which allow mountain bikers and hikers to "roll over" without having to stop, open and close gates. In areas with a high density of gates and fences, they're a welcome addition to the trail experience.



Shannon Villegas Photo

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM & TRAIL STEWARDS

Some organizations seek volunteers to assist with their missions, but the ATA sees their role differently. Volunteers aren't the means to what we do, they are the reason we exist. It was volunteers who created the ATA 25 years ago, and volunteers who sustained it for the largest part of its existence. Today, it is volunteers who still direct and activate our efforts and are the core of our mission. In addition to the impressive list of achievements reported in Trail Operations (pages 8-9), volunteers promote trail activities at festivals and fairs; support trail users as Trail Angels; represent the ATA in large scale land planning efforts, and are key to administrative operations.

In 2019, 2,271 volunteers reported more than 22,400 hours of AZT related work to the ATA, the equivalent to more than 12 full time staff members. As an in-kind donation, these hours are equivalent to more than \$570,000 in donations. This figure still falls far short of the real contribution of volunteers, however, and unreported service time still impacts our ability to leverage these numbers with partners.

**2,271 VOLUNTEERS**  
**22,400 HOURS**  
**\$570,000 VALUE**

Sharing the passion and love for the trail with a like-minded community is a part of what keeps volunteers returning to the ATA. The ATA's Trail Steward program offers select volunteers an opportunity to expand their relationship with the trail and its community through leadership. The 195 Segment Stewards have made a multi-year commitment to monitor and maintain a designated section of the trail. Five Regional Stewards support the Segment Stewards and coordinate efforts on the regional

level to ensure a positive experience for trail users. Twice annually, the ATA hosts a Steward Conference and Volunteer Appreciation Event which serve as both a training opportunity and a chance to celebrate volunteer achievements. In 2019, 50 Stewards attended these sessions in Oracle and at the Arizona Nordic Village.

Another opportunity for building skills and community is through the Volunteer Vacations program. These four- to six-day intensive events give participants the change to be involved in more complex projects while furthering their own skills and relationships within the trail community. For many the reward is the friendships they make as much as the tread they build or brush they clear. Three Volunteer Vacations contributed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer labor to projects on the Happy Jack Singletrack and the Canelo Hills re-route projects.

This year we have continued to work toward welcoming a more diverse audience to engage in the trail, not only as trail users but as volunteers as well. In addition to our ongoing work with local youth in the Seeds of Stewardship program, we've partnered with outdoor diversity groups such as Latino Outdoors and one-n-ten Foundation as well as promoting women's empowerment in partnership with REI Co-op's Force of Nature initiative. Embracing the diversity of our larger culture is one way the trail community can continue to strengthen its position into the future.



DANPhoto



Tamara McDonald Photo

Wendy Loize Photo



Treven Hooker Photo

# SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP



Throughout Arizona, the Arizona Trail Association's Seeds of Stewardship experienced an incredible year of success. Our place in the community is stronger than ever, with 100% of our school and agency partners seeking continued partnership. In 2019, we developed five new partnerships, allowing us to instill the positive impact of the AZT to more youth,

including at-risk and underserved populations in southern and northern Arizona. We continue to provide meaningful outdoor experiences at no cost to schools and families within Arizona Trail gateway communities using a proven three-tiered approach of experience, education, and service learning. By engaging, inspiring and empowering middle school and high school students, we help plant seeds of stewardship for future generations.

In Tucson, two schools provided academic credit to students who participated in Seeds of Stewardship – proof that our program is recognized as a valuable educational opportunity. Teachers reported that students who participate with Seeds of Stewardship have fewer behavior issues, greater academic success, and more engagement to learn and participate in stewardship events. Schools that struggle to have adequate student attendance saw a 100% attendance rate among students who participated in our program. Additionally, those schools had a 100% graduation rate with Seeds of Stewardship students, and teachers shared that some of those students were not on track to graduate prior to their participation in our program.

"One of the most important moments this year came from a student who shared his Seeds of Stewardship experience with me," said Treven Hooker, Youth Outreach Coordinator for Southern Arizona. "He said that normally, the only time he ever feels relaxed in his life has been while he is playing football. But after hiking with us multiple times, he discovered that being in nature provides him with that same level of relaxation and happiness. This student struggles in school. If he was not involved with Seeds of Stewardship, he may never have learned that nature can be so healing. That is just one more person who cares

about the future of the Trail and the beautiful landscapes through which it passes."

Also in 2019, Seeds of Stewardship had a curriculum overhaul. A new curriculum was designed to better meet State and School District standards, allowing us to partner with more schools and take more students out on the Arizona Trail during regular school hours. Our outdoor leadership team is now educating students about the unique ecology and history of the Arizona Trail like never before.

"For over a year now I have watched my middle school students discover animal remains in desert washes, swim in cool pools of fresh water along steep mountain trails, observe birds, frogs, snakes, and other wildlife in their natural habitat, and generally learn about the world around them through the Arizona Trail Association's Seeds of Stewardship program. While these first-hand experiences would be more than enough to make a partnership with ATA worthwhile, it's the change that is seen after the field trip ends that is the true value of such expeditions. Students have consistently fewer behavioral

issues, better listening skills, and overall better attitudes toward their learning experience after spending a day outside with Seeds of Stewardship. It is my sincere belief that a day spent outdoors awakens a sense of curiosity and yearning for knowledge that translates directly back into the classroom, home, and every other aspect of a young person's life."

- Jacob Bernard, Imago Dei Middle School Teacher

**79 EXPERIENTIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITIONS**  
**24 STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS**  
**861 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**  
**2,680 YOUTH PARTICIPANT DAYS**  
**5,224 MILES COLLECTIVELY HIKE**



Treven Hooker Photo



Zach MacDonald Photo

# IMPROVING WATER RESOURCES

**Every year, hundreds of individuals attempt to complete the entire Arizona National Scenic Trail all at once, and thousands more tackle shorter segments to eventually finish the trail over many years. The single most important resource while on the Arizona Trail is WATER.**

Every visitor's itinerary revolves around natural water sources, which are becoming more unreliable. Unlike other National Scenic Trails, rivers and creeks along the Arizona Trail are very rare. Some trail users cache water at trailheads and access points in advance so they're assured of having fresh water after a long day on the trail.

Protecting, maintaining and improving the trail is incredibly important...but a trail without water is irrelevant. That's why the Arizona Trail Association is committed to protecting, rehabilitating and enhancing water along the AZT. Damage to springs from wildfires and subsequent erosion, impacts to sensitive water sources from cattle grazing, industrial groundwater pumping, and the effects of climate change all threaten Arizona's limited water supply.

In 2019, one of our most ambitious water enhancement projects was the design, construction and installation of a remote rainwater collector. This unit is the first of its kind and was designed by the Arizona Trail Association's Executive Director Matthew Nelson and metalsmith extraordinaire Rob Bauer in consultation with sustainability professionals, land managers and engineers. It features a steel apron that catches rainwater and stores the precious resource within a 1,500-gallon tank that is protected on all sides by steel panels. A spigot with an automatic shutoff valve allows trail users to fill and filter their bottles. Once the tank is full, an overflow pipe fills a steel water trough nearby for the benefit of wildlife. The entire unit is fenced to keep livestock out, and posted signs inform trail users that the water must be filtered before consumption.

**THE AVERAGE THRU-HIKER TAKES 50 DAYS TO WALK THE 800-MILE ARIZONA TRAIL, AND USES A TOTAL OF 200 GALLONS OF WATER FOR DRINKING, COOKING AND PERSONAL HYGIENE.**

**THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD IN ARIZONA USES 100 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY.**

The AZT Rainwater Collector is located along a very dry and exposed segment of the Arizona Trail, halfway between reliable water sources at the Gila River and a windmill near Picketpost Trailhead. This 21-mile segment has repeatedly proven to be daunting for many hikers, runners, and mountain bikers. Covering the distance without any shade or water is prohibitive for equestrians whose animals require 5-7 gallons of fresh water per day. This passage has been the site of many Search and Rescue operations when trail users get into trouble from dehydration and heat exhaustion.

Arizona's weather patterns in this region will likely fill the collector with winter moisture for trail users to tap into during the busy spring trail season. Then the pattern will be repeated with summer monsoons refilling the tank for the autumn season.

Water quality will be studied over a period of one year by Project Harvest at the University of Arizona, and results will be shared on the ATA website. Since rainwater is essentially distilled and the unit features a three-stage screen system, it's unlikely any natural contaminants will find their way into the storage tank. The water never receives direct sunlight, so algae will not grow. Unlike most tanks, streams, ponds and other sources along the Arizona Trail, cattle

and humans will have no opportunity to contaminate the water. However, the rainwater—and every water source along the AZT—should always be filtered through mechanical, chemical, ultraviolet, boiling or other filtration methods before drinking.

The AZT Rainwater Collector was funded by a Restoration and Resilience Grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and the Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation, as well as ATA members and donors. It would not have been possible without support from the Tonto National Forest. After studying this pilot project for one year, the ATA will consider fabricating and installing other Rainwater Collectors along the driest segments of the AZT where natural water sources do not exist.



Wendy Lotze Photo

# TRAIL SKILLS INSTITUTE



The Trail Skills Institute (TSI) was started in 2015 in response to the need for a comprehensive training program for Arizona Trail Stewards. It has evolved over the last five years into a nationally recognized training program that is also utilized by federal, state and local agencies as well as other non-profit organizations to expand the

skills of their crews and volunteers. It is the only open enrollment program in Arizona that offers hands-on training in theory, methods and technology used on the trail. Each session promotes sustainable trail design and explains how this approach reduces negative impact on the natural landscape, minimizes maintenance needs over time, and provides a higher quality user experience.

Continuing to partner with Matt Roberts of Flagline Trails, the TSI is growing in 2020. This year, participants can receive even greater depth of training in the current modules and experience new topics.

Modules One and Two will continue to serve as an introduction to how to evaluate the condition of trails and perform basic maintenance, but will be extended to cover two days. This will give participants more hands-on-tools time as has been requested by students in the past, and will allow for increased depth on problem-solving the most common issues.

Trail Design and Layout is being offered as a stand-alone module separate from Trail Construction, both now their own two-day sessions. Module 4: Trail Design and Layout will concentrate on the considerations of sustainable trail design and technology while Module 5: Trail Construction will cover many of the techniques needed by volunteers wishing to lead the building efforts once the new route has been designed and approved.

Module 6: Obliteration and Rehabilitation has been added to the curriculum as we continue to improve the alignment of the Arizona Trail and encounter the necessity of rehabilitating the landscape after old trail alignments have been abandoned.

The TSI has had a tangible benefit on the AZT. Stewards who participate in the Institute are more efficient in their duties, more conversant in what makes a sustainable trail, and have greater confidence in their abilities to do the right thing on their segment. This means a better maintained trail under their guidance. Connections made by participants increase their capacity to recruit volunteers and engage in trail efforts statewide. As the TSI continues to grow, so will the benefit to the trail.

Additional training opportunities including Camp Host training, sawyer certification and backcountry first aid are also planned for 2020. Our goal of having the best trained trail volunteer corps in the country is closer than ever!



Wendy Lotze Photo



Wendy Lotze Photo



Larry Simkins Photo

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – 2020

The Arizona Trail may be a complete path from Mexico to Utah, but there is much room for improvement. Each year, the Arizona Trail Association identifies top priorities to support the organization’s mission and vision. Here’s a preview of the most important Trail Operations projects we will be undertaking in 2020.

## 1. Maintenance – All Passages

Ongoing maintenance of the AZT’s 800 remote and rugged miles is paramount to the sustainability of the trail.

## 2. Babbitt Ranch Singletrack – Passage 35 Babbitt Ranches & Coconino County

Complete construction of this 1.5-mile trail project to replace dirt roads on the CO Bar Ranch with fresh trail.

## 3. Woodbury Fire Rehabilitation – Passage 19 Tonto National Forest

Replace signs, stabilize tread and restore 30 miles of AZT scorched by the Woodbury Fire within the Superstition Wilderness.

## 4. Alder Ridge Re-route – Passage 25 Tonto National Forest

Construct 7 miles of trail to remove the AZT from a powerline road west of the town of Pine.

## 5. Temporal Gulch Passage Re-Route – Passages 4-5 Coronado National Forest

Begin construction of 32 miles of trail to replace paved and dirt roads near the town of Patagonia.

## 6. Highline Improvement Projects – Passage 26 Tonto National Forest

Improve sustainability of the AZT (and Highline National Recreation Trail) through five trail improvement projects.

## 7. Maverick Singletrack Design – Passage 34 Coconino National Forest

Develop route to remove the AZT from dirt roads between Kelly Tank and Cedar Ranch.

## 8. Kaibab Re-Route – Passages 36-37 Kaibab National Forest

Finalize route to remove the AZT from dirt roads between Watson Tank and Grand Canyon National Park.

## 9. Ripsey Wash Re-Route – Passage 15 BLM & Pinal County

Begin construction of 6 miles of trail to avoid the impacts of Asarco’s Ripsey Wash Tailings Storage Facility.

## 10. Trail Ethics Education – All Passages

Outreach to trail users and Trail Angels to minimize adverse impacts to the wild and scenic nature of the AZT.



# BUSINESS PARTNERS

ARIZONA BUSINESSES AND CLUBS THAT SUPPORT THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL LEAVE A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## LEGACY PARTNERS



*Wheeler Foundation*

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Keep It Wild  
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance  
Osprey  
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AZT Expeditions  
Campfire Cycling  
Canyon Ranch  
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ExtremeTerrain  
Family Vision Source  
Flagstaff Surgical Associates

Fleet Feet Sports - Tucson  
General Kearny Inn  
Huppy Bar  
Jim Click Automotive Team  
Jordan, Hiser & Joy, P.L.C.  
Just Roughin' It Adventure Company  
Mormon Lake Lodge  
Mt. Lemmon General Store & Gift Shop  
New Frontier Books  
Pine-Strawberry Business Community  
Pink Jeep Tours  
Pizzicletta  
Public Lands Interpretive Association  
Rancho Pinot  
Sabino Cycles  
Simple Outdoor Solutions  
Southwest Trail Solutions  
Sportsman's Warehouse Flagstaff #239  
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative  
Sunset West Building Services  
Town of Payson Economic Development  
Tucson Medical Center

### SAGUARO PARTNERS

32 Shea  
Absolute Bikes  
AC Hotel  
Arizona Cowgirls  
Arizona Forward  
Arizona Zipline Adventures  
Atlas Guides/Guthook Guides  
Beyond Bread  
Broadway Bicycles  
Catalina Brewing Company  
DANPHOTO  
Duck and Decanter  
El Rancho Robles Guest Ranch  
Emmitt Barks Cartography

Epic Rides  
Equilibrium Real Estate Investments  
Flagline Trails  
Fratelli Pizza  
Global Bikes  
Grand Canyon Guru  
Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club  
Hancock Resources  
Kuumba Made  
Lovecraft  
M & B Sedan  
Mt Lemmon Gravel Grinder  
Old Time Pizza - Kearny  
Opus Funding & Investments  
Oracle Patio Cafe  
Ovens of Patagonia  
Perch Brewing Company  
Pima Trails Association  
Reevis Mountain School  
Rim Runners  
Rincon Research Corporation  
Rogue Panda Designs  
Sandy Welshinger Cruise Planners  
Sasquatch Fuel  
Sky Island Roasters  
Southern Arizona Hiking Club  
Sun & Spokes  
Sunup Brewing Company  
Tap and Bottle  
The Superior Barmacy  
Territory Supply  
Tierra Antigua Realty - Zach MacDonald  
Western Spirit Cycling  
Wildland Trekking Company  
Yellow Brick Coffee



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