

**YAVAPAI  
TRAILS  
ASSOCIATION**

Inside this issue:

Message from our new  
President 1

Willow Dells Loop Trail 2

PAT Award to YTA  
City Website 4

A Tribute to Tom Pettit 5

Plans for Rodeo Grounds 6

Ads  
Membership Form 7

# Trail Tracks

Winter 2010-2011

## **YTA NEEDS YOU!**

**Y**avapai Trails Association has been advocating for trails for almost 20 years. We are losing some of our more senior members and we need you to join us to continue giving us a louder voice when talking to City Council and other government organizations to protect existing trails (such as the Peavine) and to add new trails (such as the Prescott Circle Trail). If you want to take a more active role beyond your membership, we always need volunteers from time to time, and new blood on our Board.

All of you enjoy hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding on the wonderful trails in the Prescott and Verde Valley areas, so please show your support for trails by joining YTA. Becoming a member is easy and inexpensive – just \$15 annually. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

*There is a membership form on the page 7 of this newsletter and on our website at*

*[www.yavapai-trails.org](http://www.yavapai-trails.org) where you can print the membership form.*

*— Nigel Reynolds*

## Our Mission

---

Yavapai Trails Association is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and developing recreational, non-motorized trails. We are an all-volunteer group that represents the interests of hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

YTA evolved from the Yavapai County Trail Advisory Committee appointed by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors in 1989. One of the chief reasons for forming was to find ways to prevent the loss of access to existing trails as the county becomes increasingly urban.

There was also a need to help individual communities develop and coordinate their trail systems and to work closely with developers and others to secure new trails and maintain continued access to existing trails.

We are a non-profit corporation with federal 501(c)3 designation, and our operating expenses are funded by dues and donations. We are supported by many other organizations and recognized by the cities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, as well as Yavapai County, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Arizona.

## Yavapai Trails Association

### Officers

Nigel Reynolds, President  
Vice Pres., Vacant  
Jim Pessin, Treasurer  
Carol Stafford, Secretary

### Board of Directors

Nigel Reynolds  
Joyce Mackin  
Cathy Schultz  
George Sheats  
Ron Smith

### Committees

Historic Trail Committee, Nigel Reynolds, Chair  
Newsletter & Website, Ron Smith, Chair  
Please send questions, comments, and suggestions to the editor, at: [rsmith1712@gmail](mailto:rsmith1712@gmail)

### Contact Us

Yavapai Trails Association  
P.O. Box 403  
Prescott, AZ 86302  
Call Membership Chair  
Jim Pessin at 771-2707  
or go to:  
[www.yavapai-trails.org](http://www.yavapai-trails.org)

### Join Us!

If you are not yet a member of YTA, we welcome you to join us in active participation. We have many different projects requiring a variety of skills. We need help with everything from making phone calls to constructing trails. Individual/family memberships are only \$15 a year, and organizational/business memberships are only \$30 a year. Please keep in mind also that all monetary donations are tax deductible.



## WILLOW DELLS LOOP TRAIL

by Ron Smith

Just when you think that almost everything of scenic potential has been extracted from the beauty and drama of the Willow Lake topography, another spectacular trail has been surveyed, routed, and gouged from within the Willow Lake and Granite Dells area. Chris Hosking, City of Prescott Trails Specialist, and his crew of volunteer builders has created another gem.

The new trail traverses the shoreline east of the Willow Lake boat ramp clinging to the edge of vertical cliffs in some areas before entering the Willow Creek drainage below the twin Willow Lake dams. The new trail, along with connecting existing trails, creates a scenic, but sometimes difficult 2.4-mile loop.

Lest you suspect that 2.4 miles would comprise a leisurely jaunt before breakfast, it took 4 of us seniors (none of which were slackers), 2.6 hours to ring up that meager distance. Granted, that pauses for vista breaks entered the time calculations.

This trail although included in neighboring trails as part of a system of ultra mountain bike trails, left me dubious of such a designation. Consequently, when we met a biker about to engage it, I advised him that new newest trail addition was simply not navigable to a bike. Nonetheless, as we proceeded we met an intrepid biker not riding but shouldering his transportation through much of the route.

The trail begins immediately east of the parking area near Willow Lake boat ramp. At 0.25 miles note the trail sign with an arrow for "Willow Loop Trail" pointing right. You begin a climb marked by white paint dots at 0.5 miles to a grand vista overlooking the lake. Then at 0.7 miles another sign marks the junction with neighboring trails in the area. Continue to the right as shown by the "Willow Loop Trail" arrow. A small wooden bridge spans an otherwise difficult chasm at 0.9 miles. At 1.1 miles and within sight of the Willow Lake dam, the trail veers



View of Willow Lake from overlook



Willow Lake Dam Spillway

left and follows the course of the solid rock spillway to Willow Creek. As you enter the creek bottom at 1.2 miles there is yet another map at a switchback. Climb from the creek, passing an open meadow (private property) and follow the well-marked route back to where you started (2.4 miles).

### A unique geological phenomenon

Parts of the trail just described, where it passes opposite sheer granite cliffs, exhibits some unique patterns in the surfaces of the rocks. In places the colors and delineated patterns have been described by many who have seen them as the look of a freshly baked pan of cinnamon buns. The concentric rings within blocks of fractured granite are formed by the deposition of iron precipitates within the granite fracture lines. You will note that much of this granite is very porous and seems to break into regular rectangular blocks. This is particularly apparent when seeing an aerial photograph of the area. It is the weathering of the granite, often produc-

ing rounded boulders and other weird forms, that produces this checkerboard appearance. To quote from M. Krieger, 1965, "It has also produced a checkerboard appearance where iron oxide has migrated inward from horizontal, vertical, and sloping joint surfaces. ...resulting in concentric envelopes that become more spherical inward."



Vertical canyon walls expose unique rectangular forms



Close view of "Cinnamon Buns"

For detailed directions on this trail, maps, and much more check out the City of Prescott website article on page 4 or go to:

<http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/trails>

## YTA WINS AWARD AT PAT'S PEDALS & PUMPS GALA

by Jim Pessin

YTA is very proud to have received one of the C.Y.C.L.E. (Central Yavapai Community Leadership Excellence) Awards at the Prescott Alternative Transportation's second annual Pedals and Pumps Gala on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the former Granite Dells Resort and Pool and included a hike, a bike ride, live entertainment, silent and live auctions and dinner. YTA members attending the event were Nigel Reynolds, Jim Pessin and George Sheats.

Four C.Y.C.L.E. awards were given to individuals, businesses and organizations who go above and beyond in contributing to the quality of life of our central Yavapai community. Rob Hehlen received the individual award; the Raven Café received the business award; Eric Smith of the City's Parks and Recreation/Trails received the government award. YTA, receiving the non-governmental award, is honored to be listed with other nominees and winners.



Accepting award: left to rt, Jim Pessin, George Sheats, Nigel Reynolds

dates back to the 1880s. It is now a private residence located in a unique area and boasts some of the historical relics reminiscent of days gone by.



The YTA board has been working hard for many years in support of trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and horse-back riders, and feels gratified to receive community recognition.

The historic Granite Dells Resort

## OVER THE HILL GANG

by George Sheats

The "Over the Hill Gang" offers the opportunity to contribute to the community by building and maintaining trails in the City of Prescott and on the Prescott National Forest. Work on city trails takes place on Monday mornings from 8-12. The meeting place varies; call or email Chris Hosking at 928-830-0520 or [hosking@prescott-az.gov](mailto:hosking@prescott-az.gov). Work on national forest trails is performed on Thursday mornings from 8-12. Meet at the fleet parking yard at the rear of the Prescott National Forrest office at 344 S. Cortez St. A Volunteer Agreement is required for the National Forest. Additional information is available by calling 928-778-7221. Email lists are maintained for announcements.

No experience is necessary. Please wear boots, clothing appropriate for the weather and heavy work gloves. Bring water and a snack. Tools and training are provided.

The "Over the Hill Gang" has no organizational structure, no officers, no by-laws and neither accepts nor disburses funds. You become a member by working on trails.

## CITY OF PRESCOTT WEBSITE: CHECK IT OUT!

There is barely space enough here to cite all of the kinds of information available to trail users and volunteers that exists on the City of Prescott website. Just to highlight a few examples, you will find detailed maps and descriptions of all 19 city trails. The map indexes each trail by number. When you click on the colored index number, another inset map pops up along with a text description of that trail. The map itself has a scale slider that enables you to enlarge the map. This is particularly useful when you switch to satellite or hybrid view where you can explore terrain topography with an route overlay of each trail.

You will also find information about upcoming events and schedules, including those of the Trekabout city sponsored hiking group. There are several video clips including one depicting activities of the Over the Hill Gang as they build portions of a trail.

The site has information about other adult and youth sports activities, senior olympics, and special needs programs and events.

<http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/parks/trails>

## A TRIBUTE: TOM PETTIT 1952-2010

*The following article was excerpted from information provided by survivors of Tom Pettit, former President of the Open Space Alliance. He died in October, 2010.*

Community was the heart and soul of Tom's life. Among his various lifetime honors was an award from Open Space Alliance for his many years of leadership and service as President. As an active member of Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Tom received the first annual Albert Lovejoy Social Justice Award. Tom was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Prescott Earth Day Network.



Some of Tom's other community activities included Open Door, Prescott Alternative Transportation, CWAG, Precinct Chairman for the Democratic Party, Prescott Area Leadership, Inc. and Greenways Trail System. Recently, Tom appeared on I Believe with Elizabeth Ruffner. On Friday nights, Tom joined the Prescott Women in Black, a silent vigil committed to peace and justice and actively opposed to war and other forms of violence. His final act of protest was marching in the Phoenix rally opposing SB 1070.

Where community is concerned, Tom walked the talk. His favorite quote was: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." (Aldo Leopold, 1949)

Tom is survived by his partner of 15 years, Johanna Hawley; his mother, Eleanor Pettit; his sister Suzann Oaks; his sister Sally Munson; his brother Robert Pettit, his brother, William Pettit; and his brother, James Pettit. Surviving family members also include 14 nieces and nephews and 20 grand nieces and nephews. Tom was preceded in death by his father, George Pettit and sister Sherrill Gooding.

During the Vietnam War, Tom was a Conscientious Objector completing two

years of alternative service working for the DuPage County Convalescent Center in Wheaton Illinois. Later he earned his B.S. and M.S. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. After receiving his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1986, Tom subsequently taught Chemistry at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott. He also taught at Las Vegas Community College, Yavapai College and Prescott College as an adjunct faculty member. Tom was proud of his work with the Hozhoni Foundation, a provider of services and advocacy for people with disabilities.

Community was the heart and soul of Tom's life. Among his various lifetime honors was an award from Open Space Alliance for his many years of leadership and service as President. As an active member of Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Tom received the first annual Albert Lovejoy Social Justice Award. Tom was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Prescott Earth Day Network.



Tom at Earth Day celebration, 2010 Photos by Nancy Han



June 5 tree planting & dedication, OSA/Friends of Acker

## PRESCOTT RODEO GROUNDS TRAILS

by George Sheats

The Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai identified creating trails to and within the Rodeo Grounds as a primary goal for 2011. The timing was influenced by the planned State Centennial celebrations scheduled for Fall 2011 through 2012. The first Territorial Capital of Arizona and the World's Oldest Rodeo are marquee destinations for events, activities, and visitors. Individual OSA members, Prescott Alternative Transportation, Yavapai Trails Association, the Greenways/Dexter Neighborhood, Prescott Parks and Recreation Dept., and other groups quickly stepped forward with interest and support of these OSA initiatives.

Early discussions proposed a pedestrian recreation amenity which would encompass the Rodeo Grounds with a perimeter pedestrian and multi-use path. A longer-term vision identified the pathway to be a destination for exercise with various exercise stations along the way.

When ownership of the Rodeo Grounds was transferred from Yavapai County to Prescott, an additional four-acre parcel of vacant land was purchased by the City as Open Space. This area is located behind the historic Danny Freeman Building, Doc Pardee Building, and Fish Pond Shrine. This area is often referred to as the "Rock Pile" and will be an ideal area for short hiking trails having a scenic panoramic of 360 degrees. The City has removed the transient camps from this area and City work crews have cleaned up the garbage and debris. Parks Department Rangers are now patrolling and monitoring this area. After a planned archaeological study is completed to identify and protect any historical or archaeological artifacts, the City Trails Specialist will lay out a variety of hiking trails which

will encircle, ascend, and connect the different viewpoints in this open space. The volunteer "Over the Hill Gang" will be asked to build these trails once the previous planning steps are completed. It is estimated that the area could accommodate about one mile of natural area single-track trails. There is a recommendation to name this trail posthumously in honor of the late Tom Pettit, former long-time President of OSA to name the trail summit "Pettit Point."

The City has just completed a small land exchange with APS, and the City now owns a trail corridor that allows a portion of the Greenways Trail System to connect to the Lincoln St. pedestrian bridge. The OSA and its supporters are now ready to determine if the Greenways Trail system can be further extended along Miller Creek to the Rodeo Grounds. There will be discussions

with the various creekside property owners regarding their providing access for a single-track trail along the edge of their properties. Some of these property owners provided trail easements a couple years ago, while others did not. We are hopeful that the benefits associated with a defined pathway, will reduce trespass, increase security, and allow regular cleanup along the Creek.

The vision is to tie the Greenways Trail System in downtown Prescott, to the Rodeo Grounds via a simple pedestrian pathway. Other plans are in process for adding the historic Freeman and Pardee Buildings onto the National and State Registers of Historic Places. We are all excited about how all these initiatives can evolve into additional value for Prescott residents and visitors.



**\*\* Important Membership Notice \*\***

Due to the common interest and goals of the Yavapai Trails Association and the Open Space Alliance (OSA) your board is exploring a potential merger with OSA. Members, please give us your thoughts.


119 Grove Avenue in Prescott  
www.aspenconferenceroom.org  
\$15/hr.  
713-6626 or 443-0043

**Aspen Conference Room**  
at The Grove in Prescott LLC



**RENTAL**  
seats up to 25 people  
for meetings, classes, & more  
tables & white board available

**Castle Rock**  
PUBLISHING



*Prescott & Central  
Highlands Trails*

---

A guide to hiking & biking  
in Arizona's central  
mountain region

---

**RON SMITH**  
Author & Publisher  
1712 Pine Woods Rd  
Prescott, AZ 86305  
928-445-6678  
rsmith1712@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Individual or Organization Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What related organizations do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you use trails (horseback, hike, bike)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have time or skills to contribute? \_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_ Want to volunteer \_\_\_\_

If you did not receive this newsletter in the mail, where did you pick up this copy?

Retail store \_\_\_\_\_ Public facility \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership fee: \$15.00 for individual/family; \$30 Organization/Business

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Fee Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to: **YTA**

If you would like membership in the YTA Historic Trails Committee, please check box

Please clip out this coupon and sent to:

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

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

**We're on the Web at:**  
*www.*  
*yavapai-trails.org*

