

# PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZG&FD), Region V, Landowner Relations Public Access Coordinator, Matt Walton, was the featured speaker at the PTA Annual Dinner and Elections on November 8, 2016. More inside!

## Courtesy Matters!

*Shared trails are common in the Tucson area. Etiquette requires bicyclists yield to hikers and equestrians, and hikers must yield to horses.*

*Exercise special awareness around stock animals. Say "Hello" to the riders, don't surprise the horses, and try not to be on the uphill side of the trail (they think you're a mountain lion).*

## President's Message

**We're looking forward to what will happen this year with trails in Pima County. Here's a sampling.**

Oro Valley asked us to consult on the stepover for equestrians on the Logan's Crossing trail and also asked for our input on the new trailhead planned at Big Wash/Rancho Vistoso Blvd. The trailhead is in the early planning stage.

Sahuarita asked for our attendance at their planning meeting with developers for trails especially along the Santa Cruz. We were able to give them some ideas for consideration.

PTA teamed up with Marana in planning a Central Arizona Project trail crossing at Interstate 10 near Tangerine Road. A bridge over I-10 similar to the pedestrian bridge on the CAP multi-use trail in Phoenix across I-17 is proposed. To start the planning process, the county will pay half of the \$50,000 siting study cost if Marana matches the funding.

The City of Tucson is developing the El Paso Southwestern Greenway as a Rails-to-Trails project. Since we partnered with residents in the barrios several years ago to see this project come to fruition, we maintain a dedicated interest in its progress.

We have joined a Pima County steering committee for construction of trails at McKenzie Ranch, Tucson Mountain Park, 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Painted Hills, and the Tribute Trail on lands surrounding Tucson.

As you can see, we're busy and committed to helping expand trails. If you have renewed your membership, we thank you. If not, please consider supporting us again with your membership for 2017. You can go online to [www.pimatrails.org](http://www.pimatrails.org) and either pay using PayPal or credit/debit card, or download a form and mail it to Pima Trails, PO Box 35007, Tucson AZ 85740.

As always, if there is something you think we should know about a trail or if you want information, don't hesitate to contact us at either [email@pimatrails.org](mailto:email@pimatrails.org) or leave a message at 520-577-7919.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Clark".

Sue Clark, President

Recreation is a perpetual battlefield because it is a single word denoting as many diverse things as there are diverse people. One can discuss it only in personal terms. —ALDO LEOPOLD, US conservationist,

### PTA Statement of Purpose

Pima Trails Association is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, all-volunteer trails advocacy organization comprised of hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers working together to protect and preserve trails in Pima County.

### PTA Goals

- Establish an integrated multi-use public trails system.
- Assure permanent access to trails on public lands.
- Promote cooperation with land owners and developers to preserve access to traditional-use trails on private lands.
- Foster cooperation and communication among all trail user-groups.
- Communicate and cooperate with government agencies on trail matters.
- Keep the community informed about trail issues and opportunities.
- Facilitate the safe and harmonious multi-use of trails through trail education, community programs and fund-raising activities.
- Encourage the development of new recreational and historic trails.
- Expand the effectiveness and influence of Pima Trails Association

### 2017 PTA Board Members

Sue Clark, President  
Terri Gay, Vice President  
Bev Showalter, Secretary  
Chuck Cook, Treasurer

### Directors

Daphne Madison  
Jason Priest  
Mike Studer  
Jim Terlep  
Sharon Urban

### Welcome, New Members!

Ann Adkins  
Susan Archer  
Mary Carroll  
Ann Durnal  
Thomas Ellis  
Debra Grynewicz  
Sally Janovec  
Karen Lowery  
Susan Patterson  
June Ross  
Shirley Valdez  
Landon Vincent  
Phyllis Williams

### Thank You, Business Members!

Epic Rides  
Fair Wheel Bikes  
Gentleman's Acres  
Max Shemwell Insurance  
Summit Hut  
The Magic Garden  
White Stallion Ranch

Pima Trails Newsletter  
is a publication of Pima Trails Association,  
P O Box 35007, Tucson, Arizona 85740  
Phone 520-577-7919

Story copy reflects the views of  
the author and does not necessarily  
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subject to editing as needed.

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## PTA EVENTS

- **BOARD MEETING**  
MARCH 28, 2017, 6:30 PM  
7318 N. Oracle
- **SUMMIT HUT SALE**  
INFORMATION TABLE  
MARCH 18, 2017  
5251 E Speedway Blvd
- **BOARD MEETING**  
APRIL 25, 2017, 6:30 PM  
7318 N. Oracle

### Annual Dinner & Election Celebrates New Year and New Board

Election results for board members were announced at the annual meeting on November 8, 2016. The elected board remained intact with the addition of Jason Priest as board member. Jason is a trail runner and a manager at REI Tucson.

Matt Walton of Arizona Game & Fish presented a look at access issues faced by AF&GD throughout southern Arizona.

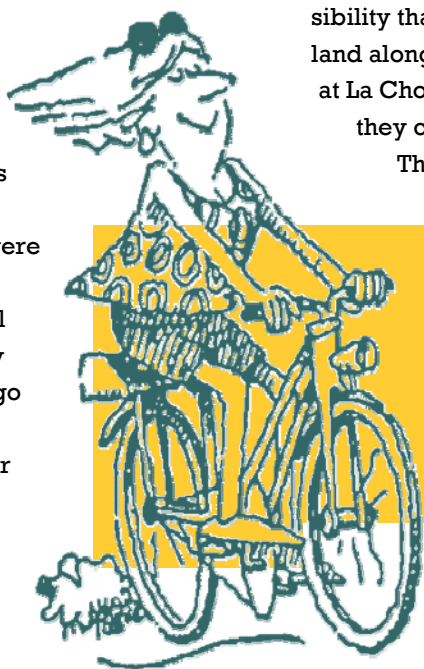


Debbie and Chuck Cook, top; Tanya and Jason Priest at Annual Dinner.

# PTA Accomplishments for 2016

**Pima Trails Association continued its active involvement and collaboration with the eastern Pima County trails community throughout 2016. Here are a few outcomes and opportunities for 2017.**

- Pima County created a safer crossing of the Arizona Trail at Marsh Station Road southeast of Tucson with the help of PTA. A guard rail was cut to now allow a direct route across the road. Traffic warning signs were also installed. Northbound trail users now safely cross the road, go through the guard rail, under the railroad trestle and quickly continue on the trail away from passing trains.
- An equestrian staging area at the Canada del Oro on Overton Road involved planning by PTA along with Pima County. It is unpaved with two mounting blocks and two stepovers. CDO river park path easily accessible from this site.
- We met with Pima County on site to discuss the trailhead at Painted Hills. This is land near Anklam and west Speedway that the County has acquired as part of Tucson Mountain Park. Parking is limited so it will be for cars only.



- We contacted the State Land Department about an ownership issue on a road that provided access to the Pima County owned 1,700 acre McKenzie Ranch. This has been resolved and the planned bike trails park is moving forward.
- PTA discussed with TEP the possibility that TEP might donate land along the Rillito River Park at La Cholla and River Road that they currently have for sale.

This parcel would be an equestrian staging area. TEP is considering the donation.

PTA has stayed informed on the trail issues at Honeybee Canyon with cyclists. Special attention to planning an alternative route is a focus.

## **Ina Road and the Santa Cruz Trail**

Closure is scheduled for spring of 2017 for 1.5-2 years. ADOT and the contractor have offered no safe alternatives through the area. The town of Marana does not have any safe alternatives at this time, but is still working on some solution. The completion of Sunset from Silverbell to the Santa Cruz trail may be an alternative. No completion date for Sunset is known. Access to Ted Walker Park from I-10 will still be available.

## **SWEETWATER PRESERVE EXPANSION**

The original Sweetwater Preserve (note: this is NOT Sweetwater Wetlands) was created on 700+ acres situated west of I-10 at the base of the Tucson Mountains. Given its proximity to the metro area, it became a mecca for hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians.

The county recently purchased another 180 acres contiguous with the eastern boundary of the Preserve. The county employed professional trail planners, blocked an old road, and created the three-mile Desperado loop along the ridges.

Connector trails link up with the other 700 acres. The original section has full trail map signs donated by Pima Trails Association at each trail intersection. PTA also provided similar map signs for the new section. The beauty of these signs is that you don't need to carry a map with you nor have a specific hike in mind. You can start out and at the first junction decide which leg to take next (each leg has its length marked on the signs) and add up the miles of each section to make your desired mileage.

To reach Sweetwater Preserve take El Camino del Cerro west from I-10 for 2.5 miles and turn left on Tortolita Road until it dead-ends in the trailhead parking.

For more information, see:

<http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=1531>

# PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 35007  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85740

## Support Pima Trails...become a member or renew!

PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION is a nonprofit trails advocacy organization of hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers working to protect & preserve trails in Pima County.

Yearly membership runs Jan 1 - Dec 31. No memberships are prorated. Join online or print this form and return to the address below.

1. MEMBERSHIP: ...NEW ...RENEWAL

2. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure e-mail address is current!

You'll receive your newsletter digitally at the e-mail address above. If you need a print copy, please notify PTA. We do not sell or share our membership list.

4. ...Yes, I will volunteer

5. I use trails as:  Hiker  Mountain Biker  Equestrian  
...Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please check all that apply)

Multi-year memberships are available. Save time and effort!

	1 YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS
Trail Booster.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$45	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$75
Trail Booster, family.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$60	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$100
Trail Advocate* .....	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$150	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$250
Trail Guardian* .....	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$300	<input type="checkbox"/> ...\$500

Membership \$100+ receives a PTA t-shirt. Size: M L XL

Trail Supporter\*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \*Please list this Trail Advocate/Guardian/Supporter membership as a business/organization membership.

Business/organization name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website : \_\_\_\_\_

Join online and pay with PayPal or return this form with check payable to: Pima Trails Association.

Mail to: PTA Membership, PO Box 35007, Tucson, AZ 85740