



NRT NEWS

Spring 2008

NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS MANAGERS

Start shooting for 2008 NRT Photo Contest

Contest highlights great photos of great trails

We are now accepting nominations for the 2008 contest for photographs of National Recreation Trails, which is sponsored by American Trails. We're looking for good photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, management issues, construction, and volunteers. We also want to see entries that cover the many types and uses of National Recreation Trails throughout America. **The deadline to enter is November 30, 2008.**

Winning photographs and hundreds of entries from previous contests can be viewed on the NRT website: www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails.

The Stavich National Recreation Trail, by Mary Shaw



Updated database helps visitors find your NRT

1,000 trails online

The National Recreation Trails database has been improved to make it easier to search trails across America. The search page has been replaced with two different pages: a simple form for quick searches, and an advanced form with more criteria. Several search fields have also been revised to make finding a trail easier.



The "Trail Details" page will now automatically format the page for easy printing. A new "Featured NRT" link for many of the trails will take you to an article and photos on the American Trails Website. There's even a new help page if you need assistance getting started.

The database is online at www.nrtdatabase.org and can be accessed from links on most NRT website pages.

Oak Creek Trail, Nebraska



Running from Valparaiso to Brainard, this 13-mile trail is managed by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. The land was acquired through local efforts of trail supporters, the limestone surfacing and bridges were financed by federal grants, and the natural trail was completed by volunteers. The black box in the photo is for daily and annual "Voluntary Trail Pass" sales. The sign notes that "all Trail Pass funds will be used to help with the maintenance and improvements of the Oak Creek Trail."



Events and honors on the trails

Tahoe Rim NRT "Thru Hike" raises funds for trail work

"Trail angels" support hikers

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association is now accepting applications for the 2008 Thru Hike. The 15-day trip will begin on July 26, 2008 and end on August 9, 2008. Each group of 15 people will have two to three guides.

This great event is also one of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association's best fund raisers. The \$1,500 that each participant pays goes directly towards the continued planning, construction, and maintenance of the 165-mile multi-use trail. This is the eighth year the Thru Hike has been offered on the Tahoe Rim National Recreation Trail.



On the Tahoe Rim Trail; photo by Gary Kephart

One of the really great things about the Thru Hike is the support of "trail angels." Volunteers and staff members appear every two to three days with food, fuel, and water (if needed), and they even take away the trash.

Trail construction was begun in 1984 and completed in the fall of 2001. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association, with the support of its members and volunteers, will be the trail steward and caretaker for generations to come. Since its inception, over 10,000 volunteers have given over 200,000 hours to build and maintain this magnificent public resource.

For more on the Tahoe Rim National Recreation Trail visit the Association's website at www.tahoerimtrail.org or call the office at (775) 298-0012 or contact Roberta Martinoni at rmartinoni@sbcglobal.net.

1,000th NRT honors Oregon wildlife refuge manager

Scenic, peaceful trail is a living memorial

On June 2, 2007, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett dedicated the Rich Guadagno Memorial National Recreation Trail at Oregon's Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. The trail is named for the a former refuge manager, Rich Guadagno, who was killed on September 11, 2001, aboard United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. Rich is believed to be one of those who fought the hijackers who were attempting to crash the airplane into the nation's capital.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall said, "I am particularly proud that Secretary (of the Interior) Kempthorne has chosen to honor Rich Guadagno, an avid sportsman, who worked with so many people and groups to convey a sense of wonder about wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation."

For more information and photos, visit the NRT website at www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails. Click on the "Trails" icon and then on "Oregon."



NRT NEWS is the publication for managers and supporters of National Recreation Trails, published by American Trails in partnership with the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. If you have an interesting story about your NRT, good photos to share, or volunteers to praise, please let us know. Thanks! —Stuart Macdonald, NRT NEWS editor.

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Promoting and supporting NRTs

Display Pond NRT provides access at wildlife refuge

Local businesses help develop accessible trail

Bowdoin (Buh-doy-n) National Wildlife Refuge in north-central Montana protects rich habitat for migrating waterfowl and many other species. Bowdoin's Display Pond Trail helps people of all abilities enjoy the outdoors while viewing wildlife. The nearly half-mile loop trail provides a stable surface with viewing blinds.



Above: crushed rock trail surface and trailhead sign

The trail, designated as a National Recreation Trail in 2007, is a joint project of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Farmers & Ranchers Lumber Company, Ezzie's Wholesale, Montana Power Company, Hanson Lumber & Building Supply, and Malta Ready Mix.

For more information on Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, visit www.fws.gov/bowdoin.

Below: accessible blind for wildlife watching



American Trails presents the National Trails Symposium

November 15-18, 2008 in Little Rock, Arkansas



The Symposium provides an opportunity for the worldwide trails community to come together for an inspirational and educational conference. The Symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized issues and our vision for trails and

greenways nationwide. Dozens of speakers and keynote presenters cover the key topics in the trails community with great ideas from across America. See all the details at www.AmericanTrails.org/2008.

Ozark Highlands NRT to be featured at Symposium

There are 35 designated NRTs in Arkansas

Come early and get a taste of the Ozarks in one of our pre-conference mobile workshops. Join us in an overnight backpacking trip along the Ozark Highlands National Recreation Trail as you hike into the Richland Creek Wilderness Area. This will be an inspiring trek into what has been described as "the most scenic of Arkansas' great wilderness areas because of the famous waterfalls, smooth sandstone boulders, and emerald pools." Visit www.AmericanTrails.org/2008 for more information and to sign up for this workshop.



Learn new skills in 2008: training and resources

Looking for a class or workshop for trails and greenways skills? The most comprehensive calendar on the Web for trail-related training and education is hosted by AmericanTrails.org. The calendar can also be accessed at www.TrailsTraining.net. You'll also find details on courses provided by many agencies and organizations, and links to more resources.

The National Trails Training Partnership is also eager to help promote your own trails training opportunities of every kind on the online calendar. Just let us know, or add this email address to your mailing list to publicize your events: ntp@AmericanTrails.org.



New NRT Program brochure in print

We are pleased to announce an attractive updated brochure for the National Recreation Trails program, produced by American Trails. The colorful publication is full of photos of the variety of NRTs around the country.

Our goal is to make more people aware of these great trails and to promote the community of NRT managers and supporters.

If you'd like copies of the new brochure to distribute, please contact us at nrt@AmericanTrails.org.

Learn more about the National Recreation Trails Program

Current NRT program information can be found at: www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails
American Trails serves as the lead nonprofit in collaboration with partner agencies and organizations.

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