

June 2018 Newsletter

May TRACKS Meeting: Approximately 26 people attended the TRACKS Monthly Meeting held at Darbi's on Saturday, May 12th. New member, Rick Benoit, and guest, Joel Soloman, were introduced.

Announcements:

Nick announced that he will meet with City of Show Low and Forest Service re **establishing a mountain bike challenge trail northeast of fool Hollow**, which will have a 5 mile inner loop and an 8 mile outer loop. One of the main uses will be for competitive high school events. Show Low has said they will pay for the NEPA.



Nick also announced that this year's **Tour of the White Mountain Bike Race** will take place one week later than usual on the 2nd Saturday in October. The following year, 2019, the race will return to the 1st Saturday in October. Nick will need many volunteers. This race has always been a good fund raiser for TRACKS. There is a new event manager for Epic Rides for the Tour of the White Mountains, John McCarrell.



Lynn announced the **Walk for the Woods on June 2nd** and passed out entry forms for that event. Lynn also described other events coming up at Nature Center. The funds raised for Walk For the Woods is shared between Nature Center and Save Our Park. The Birding option on our new Nest Box Trail will begin at 8 AM. Lynn also announced **June 9 at Nature Center to be "Treasures of the Forest,"** featuring a hike, a 26 minute movie and a lecture on trees by a specialist in that field.

Combination ATV (motorized) and hiking trail maps are still available for the asking and free of charge.

Jim Snitzer announced the **Audubon Film Festival on July 14 at the Nature Center.**

Jim asked members to **review the organizational posters** hanging on the wall at Darbi's after the meeting to see where they may be able to participate. Items in red ink indicated the greatest need.

The next meeting will be on National Trails Day on June 2 at 4:00 PM at Woodland Lake Park in the Large Ramada.



Trail Crew: The Trail Crew is back at work and Jim thanked all the TRACKS Members who helped on the Billy Creek project. Eventually this will be an extension of the trail already in place

Trail Maintenance: As you use the White Mountain Trail System, please note any missing trail diamonds, needed trail maintenance, downed trees, missing trail signs, or other needed trail work. Notify Lynn Krigbaum (Gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com or 928-367-2578 of the needed work. Take pictures of work needed if possible, and note the location of the work as closely as possible; e.g. code of the nearest ER diamond or gps coordinates. If you are reporting a missing emergency responder diamond, please let us know if one or both diamonds need to be replaced. Your help in this effort will assist greatly in keeping the White Mountain Trail System one of the best in Arizona.

Correction re Trail Stewards and Trailhead Adopters: Lynn Krigbaum coordinates the Trail Stewards who hike assigned trails regularly each summer looking for trail maintenance issues, missing white diamonds, etc. and reporting situations needing attention to Lynn so that she can get these corrected.



Trailhead Adopters are coordinated by Joan Patrick and are responsible for seeing that trailheads are stocked with maps and the correct notices and materials are in place and in good condition at the kiosks. Joan Patrick can be reached at 928-242-7220. Her email is joanpc@cableone.net. She will be contacting current Trailhead Adopters to let them know the change. We need more Trailhead Adopters so if you are interested in joining this group let Joan know.

TRACKS is a non-profit listed with Amazon Smile Foundation. Log on to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) instead of Amazon.com when you order thru Amazon, using your Amazon username and password. Designate TRACKS as your non-profit of choice, and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to TRACKS. Let your friends know so they can also help TRACKS.

11th Annual WALK FOR THE WOODS will take place June 2, 2018,

in conjunction with National Trails Day

This year's Walk for the Woods offers a walking or hiking or biking event for everyone. There will be the usual 5K (3 mile) non-competitive walk, or the 5 mile hike, or a .8 mile interpretative nature walk along the Nature Center trail or a 10 mile bike ride or a ½ mile Birding option. All tax deductible proceeds from the event will benefit the White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center, Inc. and Save Our Park, Inc. The Nature Center will use its proceeds to help secure its property where it conducts its Discovery Series and other programs throughout the summer. The mission of Save Our Park is to assist Pinetop-Lakeside to acquire Woodland Lake Park.

Participants in the event will have the opportunity to enjoy Woodland Lake Park, the White Mountain Nature Center and the Big Springs Environmental Study Area on trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest while raising funds for the Nature Center and Woodland Lake Park. In addition to a free t-shirt, walkers and riders will also be able to enjoy numerous educational and fun displays and booths from local businesses, sponsors and groups offering activities in the area. They will also have an opportunity to win a door prize, eat a hot dog lunch and enjoy a free concert. Come to have a great time with friends and family and raise funds for the Nature Center and Woodland Lake Park.

Entry forms will be available at Pinetop-Lakeside and Show Low retail outlets beginning May 1, 2018. Entry fees are \$25 (\$10 under 12, under 5 no fee, no shirt) until May 26th and \$30 thereafter, including the day of the event. Register on-line at www.wmnature.org after May 1, 2018. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 AM the morning of the event. All 10 mile bike riders start at 8 AM, 5-mile hikers set off at 8:15 AM, 5K walkers begin at 8:30 AM, and nature walkers at 8:45 AM. The Birding option on our new Nest Box Trail will begin at 8 AM. Fat Chance will play from 10:00 AM to 12:00.

The Audubon Monthly Field Trip will be at White Mountain Nature Center June 2 at 8:00. This will be in conjunction with National Trails Day. Call Rob Bettaso at (928) 368-8481 for more information. Since this Birding Walk is part of the Walk for the Woods fundraiser, participants (for Birding or Hiking or Nature Trail) need to fill out a registration form and pay \$25. The Nature Center is located at 425 S. Woodland Road in Pinetop-Lakeside



Yoga in the Park: sponsored by Open Spaces Yoga Center www.openspacesyoga.com and Yoga Caliente www.thegyminpinetop.com will take place June 4 thru July 30 on Monday mornings from 6:30-7:30 at the baseball diamond at Woodland Lake Park with Kimberly and Rosie. Bring your own mat. **The event is free but as an energy exchange, please bring food for local food banks.**

The First Up The Hill Gang Hike of the season took place on May 2nd to the Painted Desert. There were 10 hikers including Gary Grube and his wife, Connie. Kay said that the weather was perfect until the last half hour, but that everyone had the appropriate gear and remained comfortable. They saw petroglyphs, amazing formations and giant petrified logs. Thank you to Debbie Williams for coordinating this hike. Check our calendar and website for listings of more exciting Up the Hill Gang hikes on Wednesdays throughout the summer and fall.



FOREST CLOSURES: Today, May 24, the US Forest Service closed areas of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests that include some of the White Mountains Trail System trails because of extreme fire danger in this region. See: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd581442.pdf

As we understand, trails currently affected include: Buena Vista, Los Caballos, Juniper Ridge and the connector trails in those areas. Stage III fire restrictions remain in effect for the rest of the Apache-Sitgreaves. Users should check with the USFS for specifics in areas they wish to consider using.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL FIRE INFORMATION:

As a part of our ongoing effort to become a Fire Adapted community, Mr. Gene Beaudoin of the Department of Forestry and Fire Management, will assess your property. The assessment doesn't cost anything and there is no obligation after he gives the assessment. What Gene will tell you is how to better protect your home and property from fire. He will also discuss what trees, if any, should be removed to make your property more likely to survive a wild fire. Within the next few weeks, he will be writing a grant that if approved, can re-pay the costs of tree removal at a rate of 90%. It's a great deal and the more of our residents that participate, the more likely that grant funds will be available, not only this year but in the future. Several associations in Pinetop, Lakeside, Show Low, and Heber have already chosen to take part in this effort.

If you are interested in an assessment of your property, please call him as soon as possible. If you have neighbors who are interested, please forward them this information. The more interest, the better. We need to take action on this right away.....consider how high the fire danger is in the White Mountains currently!

His information is: Gene Beaudoin, Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management, 928-358-9141, gbeaudoin6637@gmail.com



PINETOP-LAKESIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Celebrate the Seasons" Safety



1360 N. Niels Hansen Lane • Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ 85929 (928) 368-8803

STAGE 3 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Effective in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, May 18, 2018, at 12:01a.m.

The following is prohibited in all areas of the Town:

1. Fires, campfires, charcoal, coal, and wood stoves.
2. Smoking (except within an enclosed vehicle or building.)
3. Outdoor Mechanical and Industrial Prohibitions:
 - a) Operating any internal combustion engine in the course of mechanical or industrial operations that would produce open flames or sparks.
 - b) Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame (except emergency repair of public utilities.)
 - c) Using an explosive.
4. Operating a motor vehicle off designated roads.
5. Use of any and all fireworks.
6. Use of all firearms.

Exemptions:

- A. Fires set or permitted by any public officer, federal, state or local, in the performance of their official duties.
- B. Fires permitted by the Town's Emergency Management Director or his designee.
- C. Operating devices fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the device.
- D. Operating internal combustion engines with approved spark-arresting device such as lawn mowers and landscaping equipment in maintained landscape space.
- E. Operating generators with an approved spark-arresting device within an enclosed vehicle or building or in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the generator.
- F. Outdoor welding with Fire Restriction Exemption Permit issued by appropriate fire district only.

If there is any doubt about restrictions, please contact your local fire district or law enforcement agency with questions. For safety purposes it is suggested that a pressurized water supply or fire extinguisher be maintained and available in the area of these outdoor activities.

All areas of both Navajo and Apache Counties use fire restrictions to help prevent unwanted, human-caused fires and to limit the exposure of visitors during periods of potentially dangerous fire conditions. An explanation of the different stages of fire restriction and what is typically prohibited during those stages can be found at: www.311info.net. You may also call the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department Public Information Hotline at 928-368-5500.

Date	Event	Time and Location
May 31, Thursday	<u>TRACKS Board Meeting</u>	1:00 PM at Nature Center. TRACKS members welcome
June 2, Saturday	National Trails Day: Events start at 7:30 AM, Including Walk for the Woods. See above article for details.	7:30 AM Registration at the Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Rd. Activities start at 8
June 2, Saturday	<u>National Trails Day Potluck:</u>	4:00 PM at Woodland Lake Park Bring a dish to share Social hour from 4:00 to 5:00 Meeting starts at 5:00 PM
June 2, Saturday	<u>The Audubon Monthly Field Trip</u> Call Rob Bettaso at (928) 368-8481 for more information.	8:00 AM at Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Rd in Lakeside This is in conjunction with National Trails Day. No pets.
June 6, Wednesday	<u>Up the Hill Gang</u> will hike Springer Mountain Lookout from Best Western led by Carl	6:45 AM meet at KFC. 5-6 mi moderate hiking. \$2 carpool
June 6, Wednesday	<u>Audubon Monthly Meeting</u> Mike Cross of AZ Game & Fish will discuss Band-tailed Pigeon Study	6:30 PM at the Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Rd in Lakeside
June 9, Saturday	<u>Nature Center Event: Treasures of the Forest</u> <i>Tales of the Tall Trees.</i> An all ages program featuring our area forests	10:00 AM Hike at the Nature Ctr with experts who will describe <i>Firewise</i> principles. A movie will be shown as alternative to hiking
June 13, Wednesday	<u>Up the Hill Gang</u> will hike Sheep's Crossing to Potato Hollow Springs led by Mabel	6:45 AM meet KFC in Pinetop. 6 miles moderate hiking. Carpool \$5
June 16. Saturday	<u>Nature Discovery Program: A Good Can of Worms.</u> Learn about gardening and composting skills focusing in kids in the dirt	10:00 AM at the Nature Center at 425 S. Woodland Road. There will be an optional trip to Pinetop Lakeside to see the Digester
June 20, Wednesday	<u>Up the Hill Gang</u> will hike Thompson Trail #629 along west fork of Black River	6:45 AM meet KFC in Pinetop. 6 miles moderate to difficult hiking. Carpool \$2
June 23, Saturday	<u>Nature Discovery Program: Feathers and Nests</u> How birds fly and engineer their nests	10:00 AM at the Nature Center at 425 S. Woodland Rd. An easy walk to check out new Nest Box Trail
June 27, Wednesday	<u>Up the Hill Gang</u> will hike West Baldy from parking lot led by Steve Eads	6:45 AM meet KFC 5 mi moderate hiking. \$5 carpool
June 30, Saturday	<u>Nature Discovery Program: Wonderful Wetlands.</u> Discover the importance of wetlands to wildlife	10:00 AM at the Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Rd. Be ready to get wet.
Mondays	Trail Crew	Contact John Burton to get on mailing list for times and meeting places: 928-358-1905 johnpageburton@gmail.com



425 S. Woodland Rd
Lakeside, AZ 85935

www.trackswhitemountains.org