
February 2018 Newsletter

January TRACKS Meeting: Lynn Krigbaum called the TRACKS January breakfast meeting to order at 8:00 AM. About 22 people attended the meeting held at Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. New members, Cindi and Doug Barningham, were introduced.

Following the meeting, the Jernigans led a cross country skiing group and Ruth Nelson led a walk around Woodland Lake Park.



Announcements:

1. **Winterfest** will be held January 20 at Sunrise this year from 10 AM until 2 PM. Pinetop-Lakeside is sponsoring the first 100 kids that show up with free admission. Next year, Winterfest will be held at Mountain Meadows in Lakeside.
2. **A Robotics event** will be held at Blue Ridge gymnasium on January 20. This is a competition.
3. **Game and Fish is hosting Bald Eagle Workshop** at White Mountain Nature Center on February 10. Field trip will follow at Lazy Oaks Resort to view the eagles.
4. **Game and Fish has a Cormorant Count** on January 20. Different sites (lakes) are assigned to those involved.
5. **There will be a Regional Science Fair** at Snowflake NPC Performing Arts on March 3, 2018. Lynn passed an envelope for a donation for TRACKS to be a sponsor. Lynn explained that TRACKS cannot use funds from their account for this type of use. Lynn announced that she did receive enough for TRACKS to be a sponsor after the envelope was passed around.
6. Lynn announced that **Sequoia school is also having a Science Fair on February 3.**

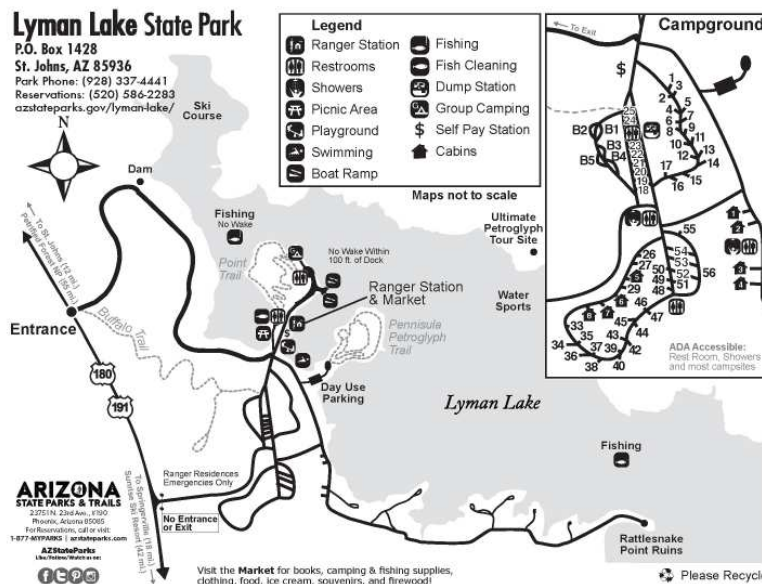
Lynn told members of a meeting held with Forest Service and members of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Keith Johnson, Matt Patterson, Malaina Spillman and Lynn, to discuss building two connector trails from Mountain Meadows to Hitching Post Trail. A NEPA will be required.

Lynn spoke of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and Save Our Park working towards the appraisal of the 107 acres of Woodland Lake, and Save Our Park will pay the \$20,000 needed for the appraisal in the spring. This will enable the town to make plans to purchase the Park in the future.

Trail Care Program: Trail work will resume in the spring.

Wednesday Hiking Continues through the winter as a smaller group than the summer Wednesday hikers.

Kay Alderton plans and leads the hikes, usually deciding on Monday where they will hike that Wednesday. Heather Steiner then notifies everyone on the Winter Hike mailing list with descriptions and meeting locations for the hikes. The short notice for hikes is due to changing weather conditions. Recent hikes have included Blue Ridge short loop and the Osprey Trail. Kay is



currently checking out an interesting hike at Lyman Lake which includes petroglyphs and a 3 mile long scenic lake. Kay says the trails at Lyman Lake are very well constructed and sturdy, requiring little maintenance, qualities which make this area really good for winter hikes. We all appreciate Kay's efforts to make these hikes successful.

If you are interested in getting on this mailing list, contact Heather Steiner at steinerhm@aol.com.

Walk for the Woods

news:

On Saturday, January 27th at 7:30 AM we will have the organizational meeting for the 11th annual Walk for the Woods at Darbi's. This meeting will be the occasion to assign the securing of sponsorships for the event which will be on National Trails Day.



This is the morning activity to celebrate that hiking event and TRACKS members have always been an important part of this. Walk For the Woods is a fundraiser for Save Our Park and the White Mountain Nature Center. Last year we had 2 TRACKS members join the committee and they were excellent "new blood." I hope you will consider helping this year. Contact Lynn at gemma.krighbaum@yahoo.com or (928)242-8814 for more information.

Regional Science Fair

The date of the Regional Science Fair has been announced since the December TRACKS meeting and monies have been collected so TRACKS is now a sponsor of this event (\$153 was collected in passing the hat at 2 meetings.) The fair is Saturday, March 3rd, in Snowflake at the Performing Arts Center of Northland Pioneer College. We are looking for judges as usual. This is a quite enjoyable thing to do. Training will be available on line this year and at 8 AM on the morning of the event.

Please reply to Lynn at gemma.krighbaum@yahoo.com if you are able to commit to judging this year or have questions.



The projects come from schools in Navajo and Apache counties and from home schooling entities who have judged previously and winners from this fair can receive scholarship help for NPC and the summer "kids camp" at NPC as well as getting gift card help to go on to the State competition.

TRACKS 2017 Annual Report

Arizona's White Mountains offer outstanding outdoor opportunities, great beauty and diverse wildlife habitats. 200+ miles of non-motorized trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are provided by cooperation between the US Forest Service, AZ Game & Fish and TRACKS, a 350+ member volunteer organization that maintains & builds the White Mountains Trail System. Formed in the late 1980's, TRACKS was an ad-hoc committee of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, and became a 501.C.3 non-profit a few years ago. The WMTS attracts hikers, equestrians, trail runners, mountain bikers, bird watchers, photographers, & cross country skiers, supports the regional economy, and promotes healthy lifestyles. In the past 5 years, TRACKS distributed 70,000+ White Mountains Trail System brochures, which is a strong indicator of the trail system popularity.

In 2017, TRACKS trail crew worked 1283.5 hours on the White Mountains Trail System. http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time valued AZ volunteer work at \$23.57/hr.; so, TRACKS 2017 trail work was valued at \$30,252 as support to the USFS, regional community, & White Mountains Trail System users. One special project was working with members of the White Mountains Open Trails Ass'n to spread aggregate along a concrete walkway built by the USFS from the parking area out to Pintail Lake north of Show Low.

TRACKS members also reported volunteering 16,233 hours, valued at \$382,612, at events & other community service activities, including: Tour of the White Mountains (TWM), Walk for the Woods, White Mountain Nature Center, Catalina Bighorn Sheep Restoration, 4FRI, Cool Running, Mayo Clinic, Summit Regional Medical Center, Love Kitchen, Humane Society, Wildlife Festival, highway cleanups, & Sunrise Adaptive Sports. In addition to the valuation of TRACKS total volunteering (\$412,864), trail crew breakfasts & monthly meetings at local restaurants, the White Mountains Trail System, TWM and triathlons provide major economic benefits to the White Mountains region. For example, the 2017 22nd annual Tour of the White Mountains had 750 registered riders, many supporters and 140+ volunteers, many who used local businesses. Epic Rides donated \$7000+ to Summit Medical Center, Navajo County Sheriff's Auxiliary, Kachina Ham Radio Club, Love Kitchen, TRACKS, & other organizations.

TRACKS members' volunteering includes: 3 elected to Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council, 3 AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee, 2 International Federation of Red Cross Emergency Response Team, AZ Governor's Youth Commission, AZ State Committee on Trails, AZ Historical

Society, Nat'l Resources Working Group, Forest Restoration Initiative Shareholders, 2 Pinetop-Lakeside Planning & Zoning Commission, Pinetop-Lakeside Ad & Promo Committee, Navajo County Foster Care Review Board, AZ Court Appointed Special Advocate, 32st Annual AZ Federal Tax Institute chair, AZ Society of Public Accountants-Chair Life & Honorary Member Comm., AZ Health Executives, AZ Sustainability Alliance, TRACKS Board, NE AZ Vocational Institute of Technology Bd, Walking Down Ranch Fundraising Comm., Am Diabetes Tour de Care Fundraising/Event Planning Comm., Sue's Crew, Sequoia Village School Bd, Heber Wild Horse Territory Comm., Books for Kids AZ Bd, Save Our Park, STEM, Summit Regional Medical Center: Patient Satisfaction Comm. & Patient & Family Advisory Council, White Mountains Land Trust Bd, White Mountains Nature Center Bd, WM Community Garden Bd, Walk for the Woods, Tour of the White Mountains volunteer coordinator, WM Humane Society Bd, Love Kitchen, Pinetop-Lakeside Sr Center Bd, P-L People's Vision Comm, Pinetop Lakes Ass'n Bd, Sierra Pines/Torreon/ Foothills Reserve/Sky High/Via Entrada/Northfork Ranch HOA Bds, WM Conservation League Bd, WM Audubon Bd, WM Gem & Mineral, AZ Minerological Society, Sunrise Adaptive Sports Fd'n Bd, American Ski Bike Ass'n Bd, Navajo County Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers, WM Democrats, AARP Tax Aide, Pinetop-Lakeside Sr Center Tax Assistance Program, Angel Flight, Art Gallery Director, High Country Art Ass'n, AZ Trail Ass'n, Mazamas, S AZ Hiking Club, NAMI Bd, Concho Assistance Center, Pinetop Presbyterian, WM Women's Club Scholarship Committee, WM Ass'n of Realtors Bd & SL Dir Functions & Educ Comm., Women's Council of Realtors Functions Comm., Pathfinders of AZ Historical Society Bd, Unity Church of the White Mountains, Tucson Garden

Railway Society, Pima Trails Assn, Catholic Charities Bd, Rainbow Lake Friends-ADEQ Comm, Misty Mountain Water District, NE AZ Regional Science Fair, P-L Trails, Water & Grants comm., Woodland Hills Community Assn, Episcopal Church Medical Mission to Honduras, Lion's Club Eye Clinic, WM Holiday Food Box Comm., Pima Animal Care Center, Salvation Army. TRACKS was given a National Award for Community Service by the American Trails Assn.

In 2013, TRACKS improved trail safety by installing 1,500 coded white diamonds every ¼ mile on all WMTS trails, gps'ing the location of each diamond, & providing a map with gps points to all regional emergency responders & dispatchers. 911 callers tell the operator the code of the nearest diamond so that responders can locate them readily. Grants from AZ Game &

Fish Heritage Fund, Navajo County and Hon Dah Resort helped cover project costs. Since 2013, all rescues have been 45 min. or less. AZ State Parks Board voted to recommend the TRACKS Emergency Response project as a possible model for all trails in AZ, & the project was featured as a “best use” of AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund awards in a report to the AZ Legislature.

Trail maps are free on www.trackswitemountains.org Free membership includes a monthly newsletter. Donations, the primary financial support for TRACKS, are used for trail maintenance & organizational expenses. Donations are tax deductible, as TRACKS is a 501.C.3 non-profit. TRACKS is listed on www.Smile.Amazon.com that Amazon users may designate for donations. The Up the Hill Gang has weekly hikes, & other TRACKS activities include mountain biking, cross country skiing, & camping. We invite you to join and support a wonderful group of dedicated outdoor enthusiasts for efforts that truly make a significant difference in Arizona.

Please use Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) when you order through Amazon. Use your same user name and password, and designate TRACKS as your charity of choice. A portion of your purchase price will be donated to TRACKS each time you order this way.

Date	CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Location
February 8, Thursday	<u>TRACKS Board Meeting</u>	1:00 PM at The Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Road, Lakeside. TRACKS members welcome
February 10, Saturday	<u>TRACKS General Meeting</u> Come early to order breakfast	8:00 AM at Darbi's
February 10, Saturday	<u>Game and Fish is hosting a bald eagle workshop</u>	White Mountain Nature Center with field trip to follow to Lazy Oaks Resort to view the eagles
Wednesdays	<u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</u> continue through the winter. Please contact Heather Steiner for more information at steinerhm@aol.com or call her cell phone 480-620-1676	A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May. The summer hikes are coordinated by Debi & Steve Williams and they will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication.



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