

May 2018 Newsletter

April TRACKS Meeting: About 27 people attended the April 14 TRACKS general meeting held at Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. No new members or guests were introduced.



Announcements:

Highway Cleanup: Jan Newton passed out a signup sheet for our new Highway Cleanup location on the section of road on Highway 60 between mile markers 344 and 345. The cleanup will be held April 24 at 8 AM. Meet at Social Security office off Penrod in Show low. Bring gloves, hat, sturdy shoes and water.

Jim announced plans for the **trail crew for April 16 and April 23** to develop a **trail upstream from the bridge on Billy Creek**. The Fire Chief and crew are thinning and this trail will allow the ATV's and trailers access to load up the slash and debris. This is a fire prevention project to make that area much safer for the residents who live along the creek.



Lynn thanked TRACKS members for their donation for Walk For the Woods. TRACKS is now a sponsor. Walk For the Woods is incorporated into National Trails Day on June 2. There will be a meeting for volunteers at the Nature Center on June 1 at 4 PM for final instructions.

Jim reminded members that he needs assistance in all areas of TRACKS activity and is encouraging more participation from the membership in the categories of activity outlined in the April 2018 Newsletter and welcomes input and suggestions.

Lynette Barnes announced that she will be **helping with website duties**. John Burton announced a **new Facebook page on the TRACKS website**. **The next meeting** will be at Darbi's on May 12 at 8 AM. The June meeting for the annual National Trails Day activities will be a potluck at 4 PM in the large ramada at Woodland Lake Park. There will be the usual morning activities including Walk for the Woods at the Nature Center. **Following the meeting**, Ruth Nelson did not lead her usual walk around Woodland Lake Park as this is part of the route used for Pat Tillman's Run which would start at 9 AM.

Exciting changes are taking place with the TRACKS website:

It has been updated and modernized and we think you will find it quite user friendly. Lynette Barnes is joining with Betty Zink to work on the website: www.trackswitemountains.org/ One of the big changes on the website is the Calendar page. We have the usual calendar included with the monthly newsletter, but the page also includes the complete Up The Hill Gang hiking schedule of Wednesday hikes and the season's calendar of Nature Discovery events, and it's a good page to visit to learn about special events. There is much, much more. Visit the site and see it for yourself.

AND we have a new Facebook page called Making TRACKS in the White Mountains.

This page has been created and will be maintained by John Burton. Our new Facebook page will be a comprehensive resource for all things **TRACKS**. We encourage you to **LIKE** our page and share the link below with anyone you know who uses the White Mountain Trail System. John wants to encourage you to send any pictures, news items or other relevant information you feel our members would enjoy seeing or knowing about. This page will be updated on a regular basis. You can email pictures, articles or other info to [John Burton](mailto:John.Burton@trackswitemountains.org)



3 ways to help TRACKS build this great resource...

* visit Making TRACKS in the White Mountains:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Making-Tracks-In-The-White-Mountains-950324361803335/about/?ref=page_internal

*Share this link with everyone who loves to hike or bike The White Mountain Trail System.

*Send John pictures and stories that depict your enjoyment of our trail system.

Saturday Activities: Our new President, Jim Snitzer, asked our membership for input as to what they would like to see TRACKS do going forward, and how they would be able to help the organization. We had a strong response from members who work during the week who would like to see more weekend activity, both with trail work and with organized hikes. We also had members who are currently participating in the Wednesday hikes say that they would like to have a second guided hike.

Adding a Saturday trail work day could be accomplished without too much difficulty and we plan to schedule a couple of these early in the season to see how much participation we will get. If you are one of those asking for this, please contact TRACKS and let us know you would like to be on the Trail Crew mailing list.
www.trackswitemountains.org/.



Adding weekend hikes would require volunteers who are willing to help plan and lead such hikes. We can provide coordination for this, but would need several people to do the planning and hike leading. If you are interested in this activity, contact us through the website and let us know what you are willing and able to do in this endeavor.

Trail Stewards: Spring is the time to check your trail to report any problems you see. It would be helpful for each of the trail stewards to check in with the Trail Steward Coordinator, Rosemary Huylebroech, mrlila4@yahoo.com or 928-205-7345 and let her know you are still active and will be continuing as a steward for your assigned trail this season.

TRACKS is helping the Independent on the next Take a Hike guide, which will be in a smaller format so it can easily be put in a backpack. **Your help is needed!** If you have favorite trails in the Lakeside, Springerville and/or Black Mesa Ranger districts, right away please send to Nick Lund (lundaz@cableone.net) a write up about the trails, with info about how to access the trail, what you particularly like about each trail, other information you would like to include, and any good photos you have. The sooner you can provide this information, the better, but no later than May 11. The first Take a Hike guide has been a great success, and you can help make the next one even better.

Nature Center News

Friday, April 27th, there will be a program on Fort Apache, past, present and future. Woven in with the history will be facets of Apache Culture. There will be refreshments provided by the Arrowhead Cafe. This is a "Members Only" event but if you aren't a member, you can join at the event and support the Nature Center. Individual membership is \$30 and Family membership is \$50.



On Sunday, April 29th, there will be a fundraiser for the Rohingys refugees in Bangladesh from 5 to 7 PM at the Nature Center. Norris Dodd is working on a project in a wildlife region and one of the refugee camps is very near his study area. He will tell about his work with elephants and other animals and we can donate to help the people in the camp. He will be returning to Bangladesh in June. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, May 13th, the Walking Down Ranch will host a family breakfast from 9 to 11AM at the Nature Center. Adults \$10, Children \$5 with advance ticket sales only. Tickets available at Veterans Village Thrift Store and proceeds benefit White Mountain Veterans.

May 24 - 28 will be the 12th Annual White Mountain Spring Carnival at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex which benefits the Nature Center. Rides, games and food. Family fun!!

May 26 will be the first 10 AM Discovery Series program at the Nature Center. Nature of Art / Art in Nature. Create your own art - carving, painting, sketching, crayoning, collaging with objects from nature, photographing - all with help of local artists.

June 2 Walk for the Woods

See special article and register starting May 1st.

Other events of interest



TRACKS will man an aid station for the 30 mile Sue's Crew fundraiser. Sign up at the next TRACKS General Breakfast meeting ([May 12 at 8AM](#) at Darbi's). Times and location information will be available at the meeting.

April 27 & 28 there will be the 3rd annual Arizona WUI & Firewise Summit. Register for this FREE event at <http://azwuisummit18.eventbrite.com/> This event is at Hon-Dah and will give good information for home owners as we head into a scary fire season.

April 28 there are 2 events which may interest you: Taste of the Mountain is a benefit for the Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund. 14 local restaurants will have samples of their specialties. \$25 single and \$45 double. Tickets available at the door at White Mountain Country Club. 11:30 AM to 2 PM. OR

Innovation Nation at Show Low Jr. High from 10 to 2. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math hands on activities for the whole family. Robotics, displays, food and fun. FREE!!

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo. From 2 to 4 in the Blue Ridge parking lot the Spanish and Culinary Arts classes will have food and fun for all. Also, Fat Chance will be playing on the patio at El Patron.

Future activities to know about:

WMNC Discovery Learning CAMP at the Nature Center. June 4 to July 12. Information available on www.wmnature.org

Yoga in the Park will be on Mondays [from June 4 to July 30](#). 6:30 to 7:30 AM.

Wednesday Hikes Starting Summer Schedule in May:

The hardy hikers who remain on the mountain through the winter months have been hiking all season, but now we are ready for the summer schedule of Wednesday Up the Hill Gang hikes which has been prepared by Steve and Debi Williams. The list of hikes was sent out to all who are on their mailing list. The TRACKS Newsletter and TRACKS website will include these Wednesday hikes on the Calendar throughout the summer. If you want to be added to the mailing list for these hikes, which keeps you informed of any schedule changes, contact Steve or Debi at 928-242-8579 or swilliams86@cablone.net .

11th Annual
WALK FOR THE WOODS

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 26st 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 7:30AM 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 at 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.

The Nature Center is located at 425 S. Woodland Road in Pinetop-Lakeside.

Trail Crew Program: The Trail Crew is back to work and needs help identifying areas that need attention. Trail Stewards and TRACKS members who hike the trails can help by notifying Lynn when they see problem areas, using identifying trail diamonds and/or gps locators and photos when describing a trail situation. Lynn can be reached at 928-367-2578 or gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com.

April 29, Sunday	Fundraiser for Rohingys refugees in Bangladesh. Norris Dodd well tell about his work there	5:00- 7:00 PM At The Nature Center. Refreshments will be served.
May 2, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Painted Desert.	6:45 AM – meet at Social Security in Show Low off Penrod. 7.5 mi Moderate Hiking, Carpool \$10
May 2, Wednesday	Audubon Monthly Meeting: WMAS “Members Night” Bring a photo, thumb drive or picture of a favorite bird or other wildlife to share at meeting	6:30 PM at White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd. in Pinetop-Lakeside.
Nay 5, Saturday	volunteer clean up day for the thinning project at the Billy Creek trail using the new trail that the trail crew has built. WMOTA folks will haul out the cut branches and they need help loading and unloading. Meet at the bridge over Billy Creek at 9:00.	9:00 AM Meet at the bridge over Billy Creek.
May 9, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Country Club #632, including Huff and_Puff	6:45 AM – meet at KFC in Pinetop 4.5 mi. moderate to difficult hiking.. Carpool \$2.00
May 10, Thursday	TRACKS Board Meeting	1:00 PM Nature Center. TRACKS members welcome
May 12, Saturday	TRACKS General Meeting at Darbi’s Restaurant in Pinetop	8:00 AM at Darbi’s Restaurant. Arrive early to order breakfast
May 12, Saturday	Sue’s Crew 30 Mile Walk for Cancer	For more details check website www.suescrewaz.org . Sign up online
May 13, Sunday	Walking Down Ranch will host a family breakfast. Get tickets at Veterans Village Thrift Store. Proceeds benefit WM veterans,	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Nature Center. Adults \$10 Children \$5. Advance ticket sales only.
May 16, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Springs Trail #633 From Fish Hatchery	6:45 AM KFC Pinetop. 4.5 Miles easy hiking. Carpool \$2
May 19 Saturday	Bird Walk at Pintail Lake	8:00 AM Pintail Lk parking lot
May 23, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Land of the Pioneers	6:45 AM Social Security office in Show Low off Penrod. 6 miles moderate hiking, Carpool \$5
May 24 to 28	12th Annual White Mountain Spring Carnival	Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex which benefits Nature center. Rides, games, food.
May 26, Saturday	Discovery Series: Nature of Art/Art in Nature Create your own art with help of local artists	10:00 AM at Nature Center
May 30, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Los Burros Start @ LB 54 off FR 96	6:45 at KFC in Pinetop - 6 mi moderate to difficult hiking, Carpool \$5

June 2, Saturday	Walk for the Woods - will be at the Nature Center again this year. See article above for details.	7:00 AM Set Up for Walk for the Woods event 7:30 AM Registration for Walk for the Woods
June 2, Saturday	<u>National Trails Day: General Meeting</u>	4:00 PM in Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park
Mondays	<u>Trail Crew</u> is back at work. Lynn email gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com	Contact Lynn 928-242-8844 to be on mailing list



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