

## January 2018 Newsletter

**December TRACKS Meeting:** About 60 attended the December TRACKS meeting and potluck at Peggy and Nick Lund's home. After a relatively short meeting, great food dishes, conversation, and good company was enjoyed. These pictures show home baked goodies including some hand made chocolates. New members and guests introduced were: Steve and Shelley Beeker and Kay Salter.



Lynda Klingler thanked everyone for all the books they brought to the meeting for Books for Kids. Winners of the best holiday socks "contest" were Sue Sitko for the women and Michael Shay for the men.

**Nick explained the value of all the volunteer hours sent in by members.** Preliminary reports to date show hours spent working on trails totaled 1,100 hours which translates to \$26,000 in value. 4FRI also contributed hours. Other volunteer hours outside of TRACKS came to 12,300 hours to equate to over \$300,000 in value. Nick commended all TRACKS members for the volunteerism to support their communities.

Please send Nick ([lundaz@cablone.net](mailto:lundaz@cablone.net) or 928-241-2444) a list of all the boards, commissions or other organizations you volunteer for and your volunteer hours, including your travel time in the hours. If you don't get this information to Nick by Wed Dec 27, it cannot be included in the TRACKS annual report. Thank you for all the volunteering you do, which makes a great difference in our communities.

## **White Mountain Trail System:**

**The new motorized/non-motorized trail maps are available at different locations.** Kudos were given to Tom Jernigan, Betty Zink, Jim Snitzer, WMOTA and Forest Service for making these maps possible. Nick gave instructions as to how to unfold the maps to avoid seam tearing.

**TRACKS has a storage shed at White Mountain Nature Center** that has been painted and shelves installed, thanks to Jim Snitzer.

**Nick talked about the fast growing interest in mountain biking** in Arizona High Schools. Plans are in the works for developing a trail Northeast of Fool Hollow which will be a five mile inner loop and a nine mile outer loop. Show Low has agreed to pay for the NEPA which must be done first. Eventually, far into the future, these trails could connect from Los Caballos under Hwy 260, around Fool Hollow to Hwy 77 south of Pintail Lake across Hwy 60 over of Timber Mesa/Panorama trails.



**The Arizona State Committee on Trails, as part of AZ State Parks, has archived the State Trails System of 800+ trails and has started Arizona Premier Trails of the top 100 trails in the State.** Betty Zink submitted an application for the White Mountain Trail System to be considered as an AZ Premier Trail, which was approved by AZ State Parks. The trails must be connected to each other so the east side of our trail system has been considered and recognized. If a trail connecting Los Caballos to Timber Mesa were completed, it would connect the WMTS east side trails to those on the west side.

## **Announcements:**

**Nick needs two more bike riders for an upcoming trip for the Dolomites in Italy** next summer. This ride is rated as easy by Vermont Bike Tours.

**Lynn told of plans for Winterfest at Sunrise on January 21.** There will be a meeting for this Monday December 11.

**Robotic Event on January 20 at Blue Ridge High School** which will need judges to critique the inventions.

**Rosemary Huylebroeck, who has taken over trailhead adopters, announced she will be gone until April.** If any trailhead adopters have

questions or problems, contact Kathryn Melsted at 928-242-3598 or [kmelsted@yahoo.com/](mailto:kmelsted@yahoo.com/).

**AZ Game and Fish will host an eagle program at the White Mountains Nature Center on February 10.** They will then go to the Lazy Oakes Resort at Rainbow Lake to view the eagles.



**A Regional Science Fair at Snowflake's NPC Performing Arts building on March 3, 2018.** Volunteers and judges are needed. Lynn also passed the hat for donations for TRACKS to be a sponsor. \$93 has been collected toward a TRACKS sponsorship for the Fair.

**TRACKS' new adopted highway segment from milepost 344 to 345 on Highway 60 already has the sign up.** Originally it was to be placed after our first cleanup but it is up now. Our first cleanup won't be until spring.

**Tom Jernigan said he has 200 of the motorized/non-motorized trail maps that have not been folded.** These are good for placing on a wall. Call him if interested in these.

**Liz Jernigan announced the annual Bird Count for January 5.** Meet at Darbi's at 7 AM. Training will be given.



**Jim Snitzer thanked members of TRACKS for their help in removing slash, tree limbs, etc.** from the 12 acres that were thinned along Hwy 260 from Branding Iron to Latigo, which now belongs to the Nature Center. Volunteer hours by TRACKS, White Mountain Nature Center members and WMOTA

(motorized trail users) was 185 hours while the Pinetop Fire Fuels crew and shift workers provided over 507 hours to the project. The actual thinning brought the beginning 133 basal area per acre to about 77 basal area per acre when completed. This is an excellent demonstration of FireWise and what people can easily see re what is to be done on individual properties.

**Linda Klingler spoke of Walking Down Ranch in Lakeside.** She was given a tour and told of the future plans for temporary housing for Veterans. Jim

Snitzer expounded on the funding in the future. The 575 Club needs people to donate \$1,000 each to buy the land, etc. after the 4 year lease expires.

**Kudos were given to John Peabody for donating his payment for work done for Epic Rides to TRACKS.**

**Nick explained why the date for Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race has changed to October 13 for 2018.** Epic Rides will start an event near Bentonville near the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas in 2018 and needs to have the weekend the Tour of the White Mountains is usually held. The TWM will be back on that weekend in 2019. Nick lauded Rosie Gonzales for placing first in her age category in women's 35 mile race on October 7 this year.

**Lynn presented card and gift to Nick from the TRACKS Board** for his many years and contributions as President. The gift was a pair of personalized decks of playing cards showing a white diamond nailed to a tree with its emergency response code, SL1, clearly visible. SL1 was the first emergency responder diamond placed on the Show Low Bluff trail.

**White Mountain Nature Center News:**

The Discovery Kids Camp is scheduled for all of June and the first 2 weeks of July.

There will be another fund raising dinner to benefit the Wildlife Rehab Facility on Friday, June 29, 2018.

**Save Our Park News:** We have been told by the Forest Service that an appraiser has been named for the certified appraisal of the 107 acres of the developed park. There are many hoops to jump through to get to the actual figure for the Town to purchase the park, but at least the first step has been taken and we hope to see progress in the coming months. Save Our Park, Inc.. meets the second Friday of each month at the old Town Hall at 2 PM. This is between the TRACKS Board meeting and the General TRACKS meeting so please know that all TRACKS members are invited.

**SNAPSHOTS**



A group of friends, mostly TRACKS members, gathered to celebrate Rosemary Huylebroeck's birthday. Rosemary serves as trail steward coordinator for TRACKS.



## Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time and Details</b>
Monday, January 1	<b>Happy New Year</b>	ENJOY 2018
Saturday, January 5	<b>Audubon Event: Annual Bird Count</b>	7:00 AM Meet at Darbi's Training will be given
Thursday, January 11	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting</b>	<b>1:00 PM at the Nature Center on Woodland Road.</b> TRACKS members welcome
Saturday, January 13	<b>TRACKS General Meeting</b>	<b>8:00 AM Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop.</b> Arrive early to order breakfast
Sunday, January 21	<b>Winterfest at Sunrise Ski Resort</b> provided there is snow	<b>For more information contact the Resort</b>
Wednesdays	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</b> Every Wednesday morning (weather permitting) / Contact: Heather Steiner, 480-620-1676 for further information.	A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May. The summer hikes are coordinated by Debi and Steve Williams and they will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication.
Mondays	<b>Trail Crew</b>	Will resume when weather allows



928 S Woodland Lake Rd  
Lakeside, AZ 85935