

## March 2018 Newsletter

**February TRACKS Meeting:** Approximately 18 people attended the February 10 TRACKS General Meeting at Darbi's. No new members or visitors were present.

**White Mountains Trail System:** Jim Snitzer talked about the Arizona Conservation Corps offering to help TRACKS with much needed repairs to the west side of the Chihuahua Pines Connector. They will do this on a volunteer basis. Jim added that they might receive a grant to help their organization.

### **Announcements:**

Liz Jernigan announced that **Audubon will now have their monthly meetings at the White Mountain Nature Center** as the previous location at the Town Hall will soon be demolished due to mold and asbestos hazards. The March 7 first meeting program will be by Mary Ellen Bittorf on the subject of feathers. Jim Snitzer described the problems involved in the demolition. The Civic Hall and Police Dept. will remain intact for now. Aspen Building, the site for the new town hall, will not be available until April or later. The Town Council meetings will be located at a site to be determined soon.



**Ron Major announced a memorial for Cathy** at Solterra today at 1:00.

Lynn announced that **Walk For the Woods needs sponsors** and asked members present to participate in the search. Sponsorship is \$300. The Walk for the Wood event will be June 2 on National Trails Day.

Lynn announced a **workshop at Nature Center on eagles** at 10:00 AM presented by Game and Fish. A fee of \$5 will be charged to cover the cost of transporting the birds from the valley.

Lynn passed out flyers for the **2018 Northeast Arizona Science Fair** to be held at Snowflake NPC Arts Center March 3. Judges are needed. Lynn encouraged members to participate.

**Jim spoke on behalf of Walking Down Ranch.** The grant approved by Town Council for expenses for their infrastructure was denied by the State for various reasons. Now the grant will be used to revise Johnson Drive to improve drainage, sidewalk and roads. Jim said Walking Down Ranch is moving forward in spite of losing the grant. He elaborated on the improvements being done with volunteer help. Their thrift store opens February 14 with the hope that the proceeds will pay their utility bills. A couple of veterans are already living there. Tim Strand asked if the facility was strictly for veterans and Jim said yes but the wood piled in back can be used by anyone in need as well as clothing and other items in the thrift

### **Tax Credit Benefits White Mountain Veterans Transition Assistance**

Arizona Qualified Charitable Organizations Tax Credit Program (AZQCO) under the "working poor" non-profit category.

◆ Walking Down Ranch (WDR) assisted over 650 veterans since 2014, and is State approved to receive and utilize donations under the AZ Qualified Charitable Organization. With these funds WDR provides



transitional housing, food, clothing, medical transportation and other services to assist veterans. WDR works with DES to get jobs for veterans, and veterans get WDR support for 90 days until they get enough money to move into permanent housing.

◆ How the Tax Credit Works:

Anyone who pays State taxes is eligible for the tax credit, which is not the same as a deduction on your income tax form. For example: if you owe \$1,000 in State income tax, and you donate \$800, you may subtract the \$800 from your tax bill and pay the State only \$200. You can also use your \$800 donation as a federal income tax deduction.

- *The AZQCO tax credit is available to you even if you don't itemize deductions.*
- *The AZQCO tax credit can be taken in addition to the Private and Public School Tax Credits offered by the State of Arizona*

*\*A married couple can receive a WDR tax credit for up to \$800; a single taxpayer can receive a tax credit for up to \$400.*

◆ To make a quick easy **online** donation go to [www.walkingdownranch.org](http://www.walkingdownranch.org) and complete the online form under Donations. Your receipt will be emailed to you promptly.

**OR**

◆ Make your check payable to *Walking Down Ranch* and mail to POB 804, Concho, AZ 85924 Your receipt will be mailed to you promptly.

## **Important Message from Lorna McNeil/-Cox of the Forest Service:**

Along with reducing fuels and improving forest health conditions, thinning unfortunately also results in opening up the forest enough that violators can get unauthorized access to old-growth trees. We are giving this situation a lot of attention, but they have done some serious damage. I wanted to let you know we are aware of this situation and are taking efforts to get the unauthorized removal stopped.

As use of the area increases as we go into the Spring, I expect you'll be hearing these reports from your members and the public since some of these trees are being removed from the Timber Mesa and Panorama Trails. In some places, violators are driving on and doing damage to those trails to access the large trees. I'm hoping **TRACKS** can keep us informed if you see new damage and let us know immediately if you see an active violator. We are close enough to that area we can often respond in minutes to catch a violator in the act of unauthorized removal if the public will call it in to us. **I also want to caution that personal safety is the highest priority.** If anyone should come across any resource violator, we recommend that they do not contact or engage them. For safety, it's best to not draw attention to yourselves and be clear of the violator and view before calling it in. A vehicle description and license plate picture is helpful, but only if the reporting person can do so safely without being noticed by the violator. I can't stress safety highly enough.

We also have a drought situation that may be an impact to trails use this season. It's seems like it's already Spring up here and we are sadly deficit of precipitation this winter. If the weather continues being warmer and drier, we may see impacts from closures. Just wanted to give you a heads up, but we'll have to wait and see what the season brings.

**Lorna McNeil-Cox**  
**Outdoor Recreation Planner**  
**US Forest Service**  
**Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Lakeside Ranger District**  
**p: 928-368-2117**

**Sue's Crew 30 Mile Walk:** TRACKS will host one of the aid stations for the Sue's Crew 30 mile walk to help raise funds for cancer research. The walk will be Sat, May 12 and our table will be toward the end of the walk, so we will need to be there from noon until the last walkers pass. Please contact Lynn Krigbaum ([gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) or 928-367-2578) no later than April 6 if you can volunteer to help at the TRACKS aid station.



**Walk for the Woods:** Here's your chance to donate to the sponsorship for TRACKS for the Walk for the Woods. I will be at the General Meeting at Darbi's on March 10th. Please bring cash or a check written to TRACKS with W4W in the memo line to the meeting or send it to Lynn Krigbaum, 2254 S. Pine Lake Road, Pinetop, AZ 85935. Many thanks!!



The Walk for the Woods will be the 11th annual morning celebration of National Trails Day and will occur on June 2nd starting at 7:30 AM. Registration materials will be available at the TRACKS May meeting and on line starting May 1st at [www.WMNature.org](http://www.WMNature.org) . The cost is \$25 the same as always unless you wait until after May 27th when it will be \$30. Volunteers will be needed as usual and it would be appreciated if all volunteers would register for the event. This is a fund raiser which supports Save Our Park, Inc. and the White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center. The activities will be the same as last year – a 5 mile hike, a 5K walk, a 1 mile guided Nature Walk and a 10 mile mountain bike ride. There will be free tee shirts, door prizes, music by Fat Chance and a hot dog lunch. Your participation is so important and necessary to the success of this event plus we hope you will have a great time – as usual! Questions or more info – contact Lynn Krigbaum at [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) or (928) 242-8814.



Neighbors of the Lunds caught this photo in their backyard recently. Along with enjoying the picture, we thought it might be a good idea to repeat our bobcat article from last year.

**The Arizona Bobcat:** The bobcat, though seldom seen, is very common and found throughout the state. Usually an overall orange to gray in color with black markings, these medium-sized cats have a length of from 2 to 2 ½ feet and weigh between 12 and 30 pounds. The chest, belly and inner side of their legs are white with black spots, and their ears usually have small tufts. The bobcat's most distinguishing characteristic, however, is its short, 5- inch tail, which is always less than 1/4 of the length of its head and body. This feature, coupled with the animal's black spotting, can be used to distinguish bobcats from any other feline in Arizona, wild or domestic.

**Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets:** If you see a bobcat near your home, there is no need to panic. Bobcats rarely attack people. However, if a bobcat does attack a human, it generally will have symptoms of rabies. Bobcats may be attracted to a yard that has abundant wildlife, domestic birds, small pets, water, and shade or other shelter. Small pets need to be protected from bobcats and other predators. Keep small pets indoors, in an enclosed area with a roof, or on a leash when outside. Domestic birds should be kept in an enclosed area with a sturdy roof (a 6-foot tall fence is not necessarily good protection), and do not spread seed that attracts other wildlife. Do not feed bobcats, as this can encourage them to become too comfortable around humans.

**What Attracts Them?** Bobcats may visit an area to find food, water, shelter, or the space they need to live. Food may include birds, rodents, rabbits, small unattended pets, poultry or other domestic birds, and other small livestock. Water in pools, birdbaths, fountains, and pets' water dishes can attract bobcats. They will sometimes defecate in shallow water (such as pools and fountains).

**Shelter for bobcats** can include rooftops, attics, and the space underneath decks. Other small spaces can make attractive dens also, and bobcats will sometimes rest during the day or bask in the sun. This makes them attracted to thick brush, shade, and unoccupied yards.

**What Should You Do?** You may choose to watch and enjoy a bobcat or bobcat family sharing your yard. However, if you have small pets or livestock, you may want to discourage the bobcat from coming onto your property. Remember, your neighbor may think differently, and it is always a good idea to keep wildlife wild.

*For more information about Arizona Bobcats visit the Game and Fish website at [https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/living with bobcats/](https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/living%20with%20bobcats/)*

	<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	
March 3 Saturday	<b>Regional Science Fair</b> Volunteer judges needed. There will be training for volunteer judges.	NPC Performing Arts Center in Snowflake. For more information, call Lynn Krigbaum at (928)242-8814).
March 5, Monday	<b>Trail Work on Chihuahua Pines Connector 9 AM to 1 PM</b>	8:30 Meet at K-Mart to carpool to site.
March 7, Wednesday	<b>Audubon Monthly Meeting:</b> Mary Ellen Bittorf will present <i>Feathers Form and Function</i> including how birds engineer their nests.	6:30 PM at White Mountain Nature Center 425 S. Woodland Rd. in Lakeside, PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION
March 8 Thursday	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting</b>	1:00 PM at the Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd. Lakeside. TRACKS members welcome
March 10 Saturday	<b>TRACKS General Meeting</b>	8:00 AM Darbi's Restaurant Arrive early to order breakfast
Mondays	<b>Trailwork is expected to resume in March with a project at the Chihuahua Pines Connector</b>	Watch for mailouts announcing times and places.
Wednesdays	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</u></b> continue through the winter. Please contact Heather Steiner for more information at <a href="mailto:steinerhm@aol.com">steinerhm@aol.com</a> 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.



928 S. Woodland Road  
Lakeside, AZ 85935







