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## July 2018 Newsletter

**June 2 General Meeting:** About 42 people attended this potluck meeting held at the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park at 4:00 PM. Guests and new members introduced were Howard and Shawna Strause, Cindy and Clint Wright, Janice and Newman Maurer and Russ and Charlie Coot.



Following the meeting, John Burton introduced TRACKS Board Members and hosted the awarding of door prizes. There were no additional activities due to the late time of the event.

### **Announcements:**

**Nick commented** that the Mountain Bike group for TRACKS is more active than ever and membership is increasing.

**Nick said last year he talked with Ed Collins regarding the Buena Vista Trail and has Ed's okay to GPS a new route** as too much of the old trail is now an ATV double track. With Forest Service approval, the existing trail would be renamed and maintenance taken over by WMOTA. Todd Fernau and Jason Moore have been working on the new single track trail. **Nick also reviewed plans to develop a Challenge Course for bikes in the Forest near Fool Hollow Lake** which will include a 5 mile inner course and an 8 mile outer course, which is expected to become a part of the White Mountain Trail System. This course will be used for AZ high school mountain bike events and by non-motorized users at other times. Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports in AZ high schools, with 700-1000 participants in statewide events. Show Low has agreed to pay for the NEPA. A large parking area is to be developed (with overflow parking at Show Low High School during major events), which would also be a trailhead close to town for WMOTA, and a trail along the power line is hoped to connect to the Maveric Trail System for the motorized riders.

**Lynn announced** next Saturday's event at Nature Center, *Treasures of the Forest*, June 9 at 10:00 AM, which includes talks by experts and hikes and a movie.

**Liz Jernigan announced the Audubon Film Festival** to take place at the Nature Center on July 14 from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Admission requires a \$25 donation which includes 5 films and dinner with beer and wine.

**Jim Snitzer reminded the membership** that TRACKS needs help from members carrying out a number of volunteer activities to keep TRACKS functioning smoothly..

Nick reminded everyone that **the campground across from the Ranger Station in Lakeside is being used as a staging area for several fire units** from different states. If you meet any of these firemen be sure to thank them for being here.

**The next general meeting** will be at Woodland Lake Park on July 14 at 8:00 AM and will be a breakfast potluck. Saturday activities for this meeting will be announced. TRACKS is actively seeking someone to be a designated leader for hikes following the meetings during the summer.

**Walk For the Woods**, earlier in the day, went off without a hitch with a 5 mile walk led by Kathryn Melsted, a 5K walk led by Kay Alderton, a birding walk on the new Nest Box Trail led by Rob Bettaso with descriptive discussion, plus a Nature Walk led jointly by Norris Dodd and Steve Krasovetz also with commentary, and a bike ride led by Jason Moore and Karl Billmeier. All participants agreed that they had a wonderful time and appreciated the contributions of the hike/bike leaders.

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This was followed by a hot dog lunch with entertainment and dancing to the music of Fat Chance and door prizes.



**Trail Crew is building a new trail:** The crew will be working on a new trail for the next few weeks that will run along Billy Creek through the Moonridge neighborhood beginning at the Senior Center behind Blue Ridge High School and continuing along Billy Creek through the Moonridge development for about a mile and ending at private property.

This is an urban trail that came about because the developer of Moonridge dedicated a piece of land that runs along Billy Creek to the County with the stipulation that a park be developed there which would include picnic tables and benches, etc. The County eventually leased this easement to Pinetop-Lakeside longterm for a minimal amount of money. TRACKS is now involved in constructing the trail described above and the City plans to add the picnic tables and benches. This trail will be for the benefit of the whole town and not just the Moonridge neighborhood.



*Above is a section of that new trail that has been benched to allow water to run across and off the trail so that it won't cause erosion on the trail itself.*



**The Annual Audubon Society and Nature Center Nature Film Festival** will be held at the Nature Center in Lakeside on Saturday, July 14. The doors open at 4:00 PM and dinner starts at 5:00. There will be 5 films this year and it will be catered by Los Corrales. Wine and beer are complimentary. There is a donation of \$25 per person for admission and tickets are available in advance. Please call the Nature Center or any Audubon Society Board member or access the White Mountain Audubon Society website for more information. ([www.whitemountainaudubon.org/](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/)) Tickets can also be purchased at Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce.

**The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tour of the White Mountains** will be on **October 13 this year**. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15,

please let Nick ([lundaz@cablone.net](mailto:lundaz@cablone.net) or 928-241-2444) know if you would like to volunteer. If you have a preference for what you would like to do, let Nick know. Volunteers help pinflag and deflag the routes, help at the aid stations, serve at gates and critical turn points on the courses, record rider times at the finish line, monitor the kids' ride, etc. Epic Rides makes a donation to TRACKS for our efforts, so the TWM is not only fun



and a great community event, it is also a fund raiser for TRACKS. The earlier you volunteer, the better for making the overall volunteer plan, which is quite extensive. Last year, there were about 750 participants who chose single track routes of 9, 35 or 50 miles on our White Mountains Trail System. One unusual coincidence: some of us were mountain biking about a month before the TWM and rode into the Los Burros campground where we met a couple who were also mountain biking. In talking with them we found out that one of them was the woman who came in first of all the women in the first TWM 22 years earlier!

**Nick's Bear:** *For anyone who hasn't yet seen this photo, sent out to the membership both by Nick and by John Burton, both the photo and Nick's remarks are worth a good look. And worth a second look for those of you who have already seen it:*

Yesterday (June 6) around 6 PM this visitor strolled thru our front yard.....looked to me like a 3-4 year old.

Advisories have gone out that wild animals are very thirsty so will be in residential areas even more than normal and not just at night. Good idea to carry repellent, especially if you are walking dogs.....one possibility is wasp spray that shoots 20+ feet.....of course a 45 foot spray would be better.







**Yoga in the Park:** sponsored by Open Spaces Yoga Center  
[www.openspacesyoga.com](http://www.openspacesyoga.com) and Yoga Caliente [www.thegyminpinetop.com](http://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.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Center Rehab Dinner:** The last Friday in June will be the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Center Rehab Dinner. Tickets are now on sale at the Nature Center or from Nature Center Board members. Tickets are also available on the website ([www.wmnature.org](http://www.wmnature.org)) or through PayPal. Tickets are \$100 each and are tax deductible. The event starts at 5:00 PM and is being catered by Matty's Beef and Brew so there will be delicious food. Jeff Wolf, Nature Center's Rehab "guy" will share information about the progress of the facility and Dave Cagel of AZ Game and Fish will present a program about what to do when you encounter an injured animal and stories of rehab situations. Plan to come and help the Nature Center raise funds for its rehab activities.



**FYI - the Nature Center is still hoping that somebody will donate a gently used travel trailer for us to use in outreach programs.**

<b>COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD</b>		
<b>June 29, Friday</b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Center Rehab Dinner</u></b> See article above for details	<b>5:00 PM at Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd, Lakeside.</b>
<b>July 4, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang hike:</u></b> Avenue of the Giants from RR grade, led by the Jernigans	<b>6:45 AM meet KFC Pinetop. 6 mi moderate hiking. Carpool \$5</b>
<b>July 7, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program: Patriotic Discovery of Our National Bird. Eagles!</u></b> AZ Game and Fish presentation plus dedication of the new pavilion.	<b>10:00 AM at White Mountain Nature Center, BBQ lunch to follow with music of Mountain Saddle Band. Tickets will help support Walking Down Ranch</b>
<b>July 11, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Audubon Society Monthly Meeting:</u></b> Dr. Larisa Harding, AZ Game & Fish, says bird surveys in Arizona show a significant increase in the number of cormorants, but little is known about how they impact native and sport fish populations	<b>6:30 PM at the Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd, Lakeside</b>
<b>July 11, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang hike:</u></b> Squirrel Springs Trail #331, led by Jim Meeker.	<b>6:45 AM Meet Pinetop KFC. 5 to 6 miles moderate hiking \$5 carpool</b>
<b>July 12, Thursday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS Board Meeting:</u></b> TRACKS members welcome	<b>1:00 PM Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Rd., Lakeside</b>
<b>July 14, Saturday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS General Meeting:</u></b> and potluck. Bring a dish to share.	<b>8:00 AM at Woodland Lake Park Large Ramada</b>
<b>July 14, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program: Around the World With Honey and Bees.</u></b> A multimedia reading of <i>The Bee Tree</i> by author' entomologist and intrepid world explorer, Stephen Buchmann	<b>10:00 AM at White Mountain Nature Center. 425 S Woodland Rd., Lakeside. Honey tasting follows presentation.</b>
<b>July 14, Saturday</b>	<b><u>WMAS and Nature Center Film Festival.</u></b> 5 films, dinner by Los Corrales, beer and wine free. See article above for more details	<b>4:30 to 8:30 PM at White Mtn Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Rd, Lakeside</b>
<b>July 18, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</u></b> Chipmunk Connector #632A from the Corral, led by Sherrill Sigmen	<b>6:45 AM Meet KFC Pinetop - 6 miles moderate hiking \$2 carpool</b>
<b>July 21, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program: STEM Saturday at the Nature Center.</u></b> Fun science, technology, engineering and math projects and activities for the entire family	<b>10:00 AM at White Mountain Nature Center. 425 S Woodland Lake Rd., Lakeside</b>
<b>July 21, Saturday</b>	<b><u>WM Audubon Society: Birding Walk at Silver Creek State Fish Hatchery</u></b>	<b>For more information contact <a href="http://whitemountainaudubon.org/">whitemountainaudubon.org/</a></b>
<b>July 25, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</u></b> Westfork Trail #94 to Potato Hollow, led by George Tichenor	<b>6:45 AM Meet Pinetop KFC. 6 miles moderate hiking \$5 carpool</b>
<b>July 28, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program: Dig the White Mountains.</u></b> <b>WARNING: DRESS FOR THE OPTION OF GETTING DIRTY!</b> And explore the geology of the White Mountains.	<b>10:00 AM at White Mountain Nature Center 425 S Woodland Lake Rd., Lakeside</b>
<b>July 28, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Hummingbird Banding</u></b> with Sherry Williams, (Weather/ Fire Restrictions permitting)	<b>Sipes Wildlife Area. Contact <a href="http://whitemountainaudubon.org/">whitemountainaudubon.org/</a> for more information</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b><u>Trail Crew</u></b>	<b>Contact John Burton to get on mailing list for times and meeting places: 928-358-1905 <a href="mailto:johnpageburton@gmail.com">johnpageburton@gmail.com</a></b>



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