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## AUGUST 2018 Newsletter

**July General Meeting:** There were about 26 members in attendance at the July 2018 TRACKS General Meeting and potluck breakfast which took place in the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park on July 14. No new members or guests were present. Following the meeting, Ruth Nelson led a group on a walk around Woodland Lake Park.

**Announcements:**

**A Town Hall Meeting on Criminal Justice** was announced for July 28 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Nature Center. The public is invited to attend.

**A Presentation on Bees and Honey** presented by Steve Bockman was given at the Nature Center July 14 at 10:00 AM.



Also at the Nature Center on July 14 was the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival and Dinner**. Cost was \$25. Audubon distributes wildlife kits (mainly birds) to all the schools and donates three \$1,000 scholarships to essay winners throughout the White Mountains each year.

**The Firewise Block Party** was announced to be held July 21 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at Blue Ridge High School. There will be a bounce house and lots of handouts.

Also on July 21 the **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) event** takes place at the Nature Center starting at 10:00 AM.

On July 27, a **program on hummingbirds** will be presented at the Nature Center, preceding the Saturday, July 28, **Hummingbird Banding at Sipes Wildlife Center supervised by hummingbird expert, Sherry Williams.**



Jim Snitzer announced that **there will be a change in the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month for the October meeting this year.** Due to the one time scheduling of the Tour of the White Mountains for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October, we will schedule the TRACKS General Meeting for October for the first Saturday on October 6 at Darbi's at 8:00 AM.

**The Next TRACKS General Meeting** will be Saturday, August 11, at 8:00 AM at the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park and will again be a breakfast potluck.

**Trail Care Program:** The Trail Crew will be completing the urban trail along Billy Creek and moving on to work on the Chihuahua Connector. TRACKS plans to schedule Saturday Trail Crew workdays during the summer to allow members who work during the week to help with trail maintenance and trail construction. Look for these Saturday schedules in the weekly events calendar sent out to our membership by John Burton.

**TRACKS Will Participate in the Fall Festival Parade This Year:**

This years festival will run from September 28-30th. One of our favorite activities is the Fall Festival Parade which TRACKS will be participating in. This year we plan to have our new trailer with the TRACKS logo (decorated of course) followed by our trail crew donning helmets and tools, hikers with poles and backpacks, and mountain bike riders. We are always looking for



volunteers so please mark your calendar for the last weekend in September and come be part of this fun event! If you would like to be involved in this years event or planning please get in touch with Arlene at 928-368-6810 or text 928-242-4639. Let's make this happen!

**Alert for hikers about hydration/nutrition:** (By Beck Ney, former nurse). Hiking in the summer heat can take a toll on our bodies. Especially in dryer climates, we need to have plenty of water in our systems so drink before you hike or engage in any other strenuous exercise, and often during exercise even if you do not feel thirsty. The same goes for nutrition. The body has not had fuel since before sleep, so eat something prior to hikes that begin early. We all care about each other so don't give fellow hikers cause for worry, carefully monitor your water and nutrition intake to enjoy the outdoor and the companionship of the trail.



**What does the TRACKS Trail Crew Do.?** The broad answer is that, under the guidance and direction of the National Forest Service, the TRACKS Trail Crew maintains the system of trails known as the White Mountain Trail System which includes over 200 miles of trail from Linden to Vernon. There are currently 105 people on our Trail Crew list and on any given Monday in the summer work season between 20 and 30 crew members are hauling picks and shovels and McLeods and nippers and rakes and other tools into the forest to work. Here is how they know what needs to be done and where for that 2 to 3 hour work session.



**What Does a Trail Boss Do?** There is a TRACKS Trail Steward assigned to each trail and connector trail. These stewards hike their trails at least twice each season checking for damaged areas, missing numbered diamonds, downed trees, etc. When they spot an issue that calls for the Trail Crew

they report it up the chain of command where it reaches the Trail Boss. The Trail Boss accumulates a list of work that needs to be done and creates a schedule. He or she then needs to figure out how to get the Crew as close to the work site as possible so that they can do a minimum amount of tool hauling, leaving a maximum amount of time to actually work, and arranges for someone to drive the TRACKS equipment trailer to the work site. At the work site, the Trail Boss explains to the Crew what need to be done and supervises the job. It is also the responsibility of the Trail Boss to keep the tools in good working condition.

**TRACKS is looking for a pair of Trail Bosses who can share the load.** With two Trail Bosses working as a team, volunteers who do not live in the White Mountains year around can do the job while still being able to travel and do the many things that our summer residents enjoy. So we are actively seeking two volunteers who would be willing to take on this job. Please contact [johnpageburton@gmail.com](mailto:johnpageburton@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss this further.

**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!



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**The Wednesday Up the Hill Gang Hikers** hike the most interesting trails in the Apache Sitgreaves Forest each season, including the East and West Baldy Trails, the North, East and South Fork Trails and Thompson. They have added a really unique one this year called the Avenue of the Giants which includes some amazing trees. The hikers got some great photos. Here are a couple of examples of giant aspens, courtesy of Jill Grey.



## **TRACKS and White Mountain Nature Center Report** *(from Lynn Krigbaum)*

For the past 3 weeks the TRACKS Trail Crew worked on the new trail beside Billy Creek on the Town-leased land. We are completing a non-motorized trail in the one mile along Billy Creek. With the monsoons we hope there will be water in Billy Creek and this will be a delightful place to walk/hike right in the middle of town much like having the trail around Woodland Lake. We built a trail connection in Mountain Meadow Park, but the Forest Service has Nature Center and Audubon Society events information.

The Nature Center has been busy with the weekly 10 AM Saturday programs and recently hosted the 7th Annual Audubon Film Festival. The past month's programs have included Treasures of the Forest which focused on our Tall Trees and FireWise information, a gardening and composting hands on event including a trip to the Sanitary District and the Digester, an excellent presentation about how birds fly and build their nests, Wonderful Wetlands where lots of kids enthusiastically found critters in Big Springs with the help of 2 experts, an Eagle presentation including a fund-raising bar-b-q lunch with the Mountain Saddle Band and finally, last Saturday, Around the World with Honey and Bees. The programs scheduled for the next month include STEM Saturday, a Dinosaur Dig, Beetlemania, Mighty Mammals of the White Mountains and Nature Bingo. You can see we present a wide range of programs and there will be the big finale – The 13th Annual Woodland Lildlife Festival – coming Labor Day weekend.

Four local groups are now holding their monthly meetings at the Nature Center since the old Town Hall is no longer available; Audubon, TRACKS, Save Our Park and the Friends of Rainbow Lake. A „Members Only“ event will be held July 27th at 7 PM in conjunction with the Hummingbird Festival July 28th at Sipes Wildlife Area. Then, please do a „Save The Date“ in your calendar for the 13th Annual Nature Center Benefit Dinner which will be 5 PM at Hon-dah on September 15th. This is our annual fund raiser and tickets are available now from Nature Center Board Members and at the Nature Center Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 10 AM to 2 PM or at any Nature Center programs or events not given their approval yet for the completion of that trail to connect to the Hitching Post Trail so there can be Mountain Bike competition rides based from Mountain Meadow. The TRACKS monthly meetings are now a pot-luck breakfast in the large ramada at Woodland Lake Park. Everyone is invited to join TRACKS, which is free, and includes a monthly newsletter giving not only TRACKS information, hikes, etc., but also.

We had our first injured visitor to our Rehab facility recently. A juvenile Great Horned Owl was tangled in a barbed wire fence. It was rescued by AZ Game and Fish and brought to the Nature Center Rehab to be treated and nursed back to health. While the owl was present, the 2nd Wildlife Rehab Fundraising Dinner was held. Thanks to cameras in the facility the attendees were able to see the owl on the monitor in the Nature Center as it was recovering. A few days after the dinner the owl was released at Timber Mesa to the delight of many cheering friends as it took flight back into the wild which was the intention of having this facility.

This report would not be complete without a description of the Discovery Camp which was held from June 4 to July 12th. The campers explored areas which dove-tailed with our summer Discovery Series of Saturday programs. An average of 25 children entering 2nd through 5th grade enjoyed activities, games, presentations, breakfast and lunch and, most importantly, hikes each day. There were 2 excellent certified teachers and 2 aides who interacted with the kids and also included visits from experts in the various activities even including a whole day with a „Survivalist.“ This is the 2nd year we have presented this opportunity and it was a great success.

You are invited to visit the Nature Center for any or all of our Saturday morning programs or to explore our presentations and displays and especially the „Please Touch“ table. An educational and fun time is available to everyone.

### **TRACKS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Annually, we ask TRACKS members to renew their membership so that we can keep our membership database accurate. If you joined TRACKS during 2018, you don't need to do anything. All others, please, no later than September 1, do the following (after that time we purge the membership rolls):

a) send John Burton [johnpageburton@gmail.com](mailto:johnpageburton@gmail.com) an email saying that you wish to remain a TRACKS member....and give any updates to your email, paper mail address, phone number and email lists you want to be on or taken off of.

b) OR go on the TRACKS website and fill out the “email me form” to renew your membership.

c) OR notify John of any updates to your email, paper mail address, phone # and email lists you want to be on or taken off of.

We sincerely hope you will continue as TRACKS members!

<u>Date</u>	<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
<b>August 1, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Audubon monthly Meeting:</u></b> Speakers Jennifer Johnson of Game & Fish and Tim Gatewood, Tribal Fisheries biologist, will discuss indigenous Apache trout and other species on the reservation	<b>6:30 PM</b> at Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd in Lakeside
<b>August 1, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang</u></b> Hikes Four Springs to Lake Mountain Lookout	<b>6:45 AM</b> at Social Security Office in Show Low. 6 mi of difficult hiking. \$5 carpool
<b>August 4, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program:</u></b> <i>Beetlemania and Creepy Cool Creatures That Bite.</i>	<b>10:00 AM</b> at Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Road in Lakeside
<b>August 8 Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike</u></b> East Baldy from Phelps Cabin to the Rocks	<b>6:45 AM</b> at Pinetop KFC. 6 mi moderate to difficult hiking \$5 carpool
<b>August 9, Thursday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS Board Meeting</u></b>	<b>1:00 PM</b> at Nature Center on Woodland Rd. TRACKS members welcome
<b>August 11, Saturday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS Monthly Meeting</u></b> Potluck breakfast. Bring a dish to share	<b>8:00 AM</b> at Woodland Lake Park Large Ramada
<b>August 11, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discover Program:</u></b> <i>Mighty Mammals of the White Mountains</i>	<b>10:00 AM</b> at the Nature center on Woodland Rd in Lakeside
<b>August 15, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike</u></b> South Fork Trail #97	<b>6:45 AM</b> at Pinetop KFC. 6 mi moderate hiking \$5 carpool
<b>August 18, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Nature Discovery Program:</u></b> <i>Nature Bingo.</i> Follow your own bingo card to "nature" stations featuring mini talks by local experts on Nature Center trails	<b>10:00 AM</b> at Nature Center at 425 S Woodland Rd in Lakeside.
<b>August 22 Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</u></b> Los Burros #631 off FR #96 from LD 54 to LB 42	<b>6:45 AM</b> at Pinetop KFC 6 mi moderate hiking. \$5 carpool
<b>August 29, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike</u></b> Baldy Crossing from Gabaldon Camp Ground	<b>6:45 AM</b> at Pinetop KFC 6 Mi moderate to difficult hiking. \$5 carpool
<b>September 2, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Wildlife Festival</u></b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> at Nature Center. Volunteers needed to man TRACKS booth
<b>Mondays</b>	<b><u>Trail Crew</u></b>	Contact John Burton to get on mailing list for times and meeting places: <a href="mailto:johnpageburton@gmail.com">johnpageburton@gmail.com</a>



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