



February 2019 Newsletter

January Meeting: Twelve rugged TRACKS members braved 20-degree weather to attend the January 12 meeting held at Darbi's in Pinetop. Jim Snitzer called the meeting to order shortly after 8 am.

Ron Miller gave information on the **White Mountain Eagle Fest** organized by AZ Game and Fish Department (G&F). This event will be held on January 25 & 26 at the White Mountain Nature Center. **A \$10 donation to WMNC is requested.** Scheduled events are as follows:

Friday 5:30-7:30pm Short films about eagles and introduction of Saturday's speakers

Saturday 9am **Free Kids Talk** (with live eagles)

10am Live eagles for viewing (Liberty Wildlife Center)

11am Bald Eagle Management & Recovery in AZ (G&F)

1pm Golden Eagles in AZ (G&F)

2pm Wildlife & Nature Photography (Bob Martinson)

3pm Eagles in Native American Culture

11am-2pm Eagle viewing with naturalists at Lazy Oaks Resort at Rainbow Lake (with a limited number of binoculars and scopes)

For more info contact **Diane Tilton** at 928-532-3691 or dtilton@azgfd.gov.



Also at the January meeting, **Tim Strand** discussed **Biomass** electricity generation's beneficial effects on reducing risk of catastrophic forest fires by giving some monetary value to forest thinning debris (Biomass). There is a local biomass powerplant in Snowflake – **Novo BioPower**. TRACKS member **Pam Morrow** has arranged for a **tour of their facility for up to 25 people on Tuesday afternoon 2/5/19** (weather permitting). If you'd like an interesting field trip, call Pam at **928-892-2724** and get on her list. If no one answers at Pam's phone, leave a message (no text messages please). She'll have details on time and transportation.

Next, **Kay Alderton** shared information on this year's **White Mountains Winterfest celebration**. Some of the many events include

From **10 am to 2 pm at Sunrise Ski Resort**

Free live entertainment, a family snowman contest, hot chocolate, and free rides down the tubing hill for the first 50 Kids age 5-13 (no personal sleds or tubes please)

From **2-6:30 pm at Mountain Meadow** (on Woodland Road in Lakeside)

Chili Cookoff cooking begins at 2, free tethered **balloon rides** at 3, chili tasting and judging at 4:30, awards ceremony at 5:45, Balloon glow at 6 (**There is a \$25 entry fee for a team of up to 4 cooks.**)



Kathryn Melsted and **Liz and Tom Jernigan** planned to go cross-country skiing after the 1/12/19 meeting. Note the related cross-country skiing announcement below.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cross Country Skiing (by Lynn): The snow has been amazing this year. Starting in November, we skied The Avenue of the Giants, Benny Creek, Liz's Log, Chipmunk Loop and Slade Ranch. If you'd like to get in on the fun (and excellent exercise), email Lynn gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com

February Meeting: The next TRACKS General Meeting will be at Darbi's on Saturday February 9 at 8 am, just before the start of Winterfest (as described above). Come a bit early if you'd like to order breakfast.

Wednesday Hiking continues through the winter. Kay Alderton plans and leads the hikes, usually deciding on Monday where the hike will be on that Wednesday, depending on weather and trail conditions. Heather Steiner then notifies everyone on the Winter-Hike mailing list with descriptions and meeting locations for the hikes. Recent hikes have included Fool Hollow Lake and Torreon. Kay is currently planning an interesting hike at 3-mile-long Lyman Lake, near Springerville. The trails at Lyman Lake are sturdy and well-constructed, making this area really good for winter hikes. We appreciate Kay's efforts to make these hikes successful. If you're interested in getting on the Winter-Hike mailing list, contact Heather Steiner at steinerhm@aol.com or call 480-620-1676.

Lyman Lake



No more trail work for now: In the Spring a new trail crew leader will be needed. This is a very important job. To discuss volunteering for this position, contact Jim Snitzer (928-368-3283 or jim@snitzer.org)

White Mountain Audubon Society: There are no regular meetings of WMAS in January or February but the Christmas Bird Count took place on a frosty Saturday morning, January 5. Four teams covered Woodland Lake, Edler Lake, Big Springs, Rainbow Lake, Lake of the Woods, Jaques Marsh, Fool Hollow area, Show Low Lake, Pintail and Telephone Lakes, areas around the old Lakeside City Hall, and some stops in between. The lakes were frozen over for the most part, but that didn't stop huge numbers of waterfowl such as ducks (all species) and geese from congregating in the small unfrozen middle. A complete list of CBC bird species and their numbers will be posted on the WMAS website in the near future (www.whitemountainaudubon.org).

Walk for the Woods 12th Annual Fundraiser:

The "organizational" meeting is coming up very soon !! It will be at Darbi's at 7:30 AM on Saturday, January 26th. Come find out how you can help with the 12th annual event to benefit White Mountain Nature Center and help the Town raise funds to purchase Woodland Lake Park. This is part of



TRACKS' annual celebration of National Trails Day which will be June 1 this year. This fundraiser will be especially important as we expect to find out soon how much the Forest Service wants for the 107 acres of the developed part of Woodland Lake Park, including the paved trail around the lake, as well as the Ramadas and ball fields. We would really appreciate "new" people being in on this effort. We've been doing this event for 11 years and would like to have some new ideas! Please contact Lynn for more information: gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com

Volunteer Hours: To minimize the number of emails being sent, Nick will send an email asking for your volunteer hours twice yearly, in June and December; so please keep track of your hours each month. If you like, you can send him your hours each month at lundaz@cableone.net or 928-241-2444. Include all volunteering that you provide for TRACKS and other organizations. Remember to include your travel. This information is consolidated in the TRACKS annual report (see below).

TRACKS 2019 Annual Report

TRACKS is a 400+ member volunteer organization (501.C.3) that maintains & builds the White Mountains Trail System through cooperation with the US Forest Service and AZ Game & Fish. Tracks promotes trail use and safety by distributing trail maps (also available online at www.trackswitemountains.org) and by maintaining emergency locator diamonds every 1/4 mile on our trails to help stranded trail users contact first responders quickly.

Our 200+ miles of non-motorized trails attract hikers, equestrians, trail runners, mountain bikers, bird watchers, photographers, & cross-country skiers seeking to enjoy outstanding outdoor opportunities, great beauty, and diverse wildlife habitats. Those visitors contribute significantly to our local businesses.

In 2018, the TRACKS trail crew worked 907 hours on the White Mountains Trail System, work which is valued at \$22,200 (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time).

TRACKS volunteers are found at nearly every significant event in our community, freely giving help where needed. In 2018, members volunteered 17,529 hours, valued at \$429,630, at events & other community service activities. TRACKS members serve as volunteers and community leaders in more than 100 local, regional and state organizations.

TRACKS 2018 Highlights

- Purchased trailer to hold trail work tools and carry them to work sites,
- Purchased a shed to hold TRACKS supplies (at the Nature Center),
- Provided major volunteer support to the 2018 Epic Rides 24th annual Tour of the White Mountains, which had 750 registered bike riders, many supporters, and 120+ volunteers, many who used local businesses. Epic Rides donated funds to community organizations (including TRACKS) who helped with the event.
- Completed over a mile of new trail along Billy Creek - an important future urban connector trail.
- TRACKS won first place in the Fall Festival parade in Pinetop-Lakeside

Free TRACKS membership includes a monthly newsletter and an invitation to monthly social meetings and interest groups including hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, & camping. Tax-deductible donations are the primary financial support for TRACKS, and are used for trail maintenance & organizational expenses. TRACKS is listed on www.Smile.Amazon.com so Amazon users can designate TRACKS for donations from Amazon. It costs you nothing !!! We invite you to join and support a wonderful group of dedicated outdoor enthusiasts for efforts that truly make a significant difference in Arizona.

Lake Powell Trash-Tracker Reminder. If you'd like to get some exercise on the shores of Lake Powell later this year, consider applying to work tidying up Lake Powell in exchange for 5 days on a houseboat !!! Applications usually accepted starting February 1, first come, first serve! To check it out, Google "Lake Powell Trash Tracker." The 4 minute 44 second video there is an amazing introduction to a magical water world. Unfortunately, the Government Shutdown may interfere with this year's application process ☹

TRACKS EVENT CALENDAR

January 25 through February 28

DATE/TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Jan 25-Fri 5:30-7:30pm Jan 26-Sat 9am-2pm	Game & Fish Eagle Fest (see page 1 of TRACKS Newsletter for details)	White Mtn Nature Center 425 S. Woodland Road, Lakeside; field trip to follow at Lazy Oaks Resort to view eagles in the wild
February 5, Tuesday (call Pam for time 928-892-2724)	Biomass powerplant field trip	Snowflake (call Pam for details 928-892-2724)
February 7, Thursday 1 pm	TRACKS Board Meeting	White Mtn Nature Center, TRACKS members welcome
February 9, Saturday 8 am	TRACKS General Meeting (Come early to order breakfast)	Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop
February 9, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm	Winterfest, presented by Pinetop-Lakeside and Sunrise Ski Park Resort (see page 2 for details)	Sunrise Park Ski Resort
February 9, Saturday 2 to 6:30 pm	Pinetop-Lakeside Chili Cookoff, with hot air balloon rides! (\$25 entry fee for cooks)	Mountain Meadow 958 N. Woodland Road Lakeside
Wednesdays, 9 am	Up-the-Hill Gang Hikes continue through the winter. Please contact Heather Steiner for more information at steinerhm@aol.com or call her cell phone 480-620-1676	A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May.



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