



April 2019 Newsletter

March Meeting: Twenty-four people attended the meeting on March 9 at Darbi's. **Jim Snitzer** called the meeting to order shortly after 8 am. We welcomed 2 visitors – **David Ronald** and **Ken Fitchen**.

Ron Miller discussed his work updating the database for **trail stewards**. These volunteers inspect their trails at least each spring and fall, to fix minor problems, and to report on downed trees in the trail, erosion problems, missing trail markers, or anything of potential danger to the public. Ron has created a new e-mail account (tracks_ts@yahoo.com) that anyone can use **to report trail problems** or **to volunteer** to become a trail steward. Several trails still need stewards. For the longest trails, stewards riding bikes or horses have an advantage. Contact Ron to see if there's a trail near you needing a steward.

Tim Strand discussed **problems** a few people have had **opening** the email version of the monthly **TRACKS Newsletter**. **Rick Young**, a TRACKS member with computer expertise has offered to help people having this problem. Rick can be contacted at ryoung5256@gmail.com. In the future, Rick's contact information will be right below the button you need to click to open the Newsletter. If things don't work right, email Rick. He can help by email, by phone, or with TeamViewer, an amazing computer program.

Each year, TRACKS members have donated money for a \$300 sponsorship for **Walk for the Woods** and Jim requested **donations**. There is more information on Walk for the Woods later in the Newsletter.

Jim also talked about a number of successful recent events, including the Science Fair (helped by TRACKS volunteers), the Books for Kids/Dr. Seuss birthday celebration (100 children received new books!), and the Chili Cookout, attended by more people than could fit in the Nature Center!

Next, Jim shared information on efforts to improve the water supply of **Woodland Lake Park (WLP)**. Pinetop-Lakeside would like to purchase WLP from the Forest Service but they don't have the money. **Save Our Park (SOP)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization involved in fundraising for the past 10 years to help the Town buy the park. SOP recently paid more than \$20,000 for an up-to-date appraisal of the value of the park and they have funds on hand to pay the first \$100,000 of the **\$1.635 million cost of Woodland Lake Park**. You could help secure this beautiful space for the community by making tax-deductible donations **BEFORE FEBRUARY 2020** to Save Our Park, Inc., P.O. Box 2375, Lakeside, AZ 85929.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April Meeting. The next TRACKS General Meeting will be held at Darbi's in Pinetop on Saturday April 13 at 8 am. Come early if you'd like to order breakfast.

White Mountain Audubon Society (all are welcome at WMAS events!)

The next Audubon meeting will be at 6:30 pm Wednesday, April 3 at Council Chambers in Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd. Dr. Kevin Gibson, PhD, a mining engineer, will present **"Protect Arizona's Water,"** a talk on **risks and concerns associated with fracking** and how it might affect the future viability of Arizona.

The next WMAS field trip is to a beautiful section of one of the canyons of the Whiteriver – to **Alchesay National Fish Hatchery**. If you'd like to see this place of great natural beauty, plan to meet at Game & Fish parking lot in Pinetop at 7am on Saturday, April 20. It's about a 30-minute ride by carpool/caravan to the birding trails of the Hatchery. Bon voyage!

Biomass Electricity Generation. The February field trip to **NovoBioPower** in Snowflake was cancelled d/t weather ☹️ but it's still worthwhile to learn about this way to reduce risk of catastrophic forest fires by giving monetary value to forest thinning debris. So, as a reward for getting your taxes done by **April 15**, you qualify for a **field trip** to Snowflake on that afternoon IF you're one of the first 25 people to **get on Pam Morrow's list**. Call her at 928-892-2724. If no one answers, leave a message on Pam's phone (no text messages please). She'll have details on time and transportation.

The Annual **White Mountains Walk for the Woods (W4W)** will be on June 1, National Trails Day. There'll be more information on W4W in upcoming Newsletters. W4W helps fund the Nature Center and Save Our Park. TRACKS has always been a sponsor for W4W. Thus far, TRACKS members have donated \$220 toward the \$300 needed for sponsorship. Contact **Lynn** to donate for this year's **TRACKS**



sponsorship or send a check to Save Our Park, Inc., P.O. Box 2375, Lakeside, AZ 85929 or WM Nature Center, P.O. Box 581, Pinetop, AZ 85935 with W4W/TRACKS in the memo line. The next monthly planning meeting for W4W will be at 7:30 am on Saturday March 30 at Darbi's.

Highway Beautification! Many TRACKS members volunteer several times per year to work a few hours cleaning up some of the local highways. The next trip will be on Tuesday April 23. If you'd like to spiff up the community a bit and get some exercise, plan to meet up with **Jan Newton** at 8am at the parking lot behind Show Low's Social Security Office. Remember to bring a hat, work gloves, and water; snacks will be provided at the end of the session.



Wilderness Safety and First Aid by Joanne Feller, RN. Joanne has been a nurse for many years. She's a member of the Wilderness Medicine Society with a special interest in critical care, emergency, and flight nursing. She will be speaking and sharing stories and handouts on Wilderness Safety and First Aid on Saturday, April 6, 10am to 1pm at Aspen Center Room 111, Show Low NPC. There will be training and **practice using Bear Spray**. NPC charges \$40 for this seminar (not recommended for children less than 10). Call Katie Olsen at NPC by April 4 to register – 928-536-6244. She's there 9-4, Monday through Friday.

The Easter Bunny is Coming! You can enjoy some fresh air and Easter activities on the day before Easter, **Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to noon at Mountain Meadow**. The **Easter Bunny** is expected to arrive at 10:30 and there will be **Easter Egg Hunts** for children aged 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Kids can do **face painting** and get **free photos** with the big bunny! The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) will hold a **bake sale**. There's also a chance for you to get a little extra exercise hiding eggs starting at 8 am. Email **Malaina** (mspillman@pinetoplakesideaz.gov) if you'd like to volunteer.

Tillman Honor Run. Pinetop-Lakeside, in coordination with the White Mountain Chapter of ASU Alumni Association and the Tillman Foundation, is holding its annual Tillman Honor Run, part of a nationwide fundraising campaign for the **Tillman Military Scholars Program**. This is a non-competitive 4.2-mile family-fun walk starting at 9 am Saturday, April 13 at Mountain Meadow. The **entry fee is \$44.06 for adults and \$12.24 for children**. The Tillman Scholars Program provides academic scholarships for Veterans and their spouses. Pat Tillman was an ASU grad, famous as a football hero for ASU and the Arizona Cardinals. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001, he decided to leave his all-star NFL career and join the military. He was killed in Afghanistan in 2004. His family and friends started the Tillman Foundation soon thereafter. April 1 is the deadline to register in order to receive the event T-shirt in time for the run. Go to eventbrite.com/e/pinetop to register for this event.

Bob Pena was a member of TRACKS for more than 25 years. He passed away February 25 at home with his family at his side. He taught and coached basketball on the White Mountain Apache Reservation for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1992. Bob is survived by his wife Loretta, daughter Sara Lee (Ron), son Pat Pena, and grandchildren Mateo, Miah, and Brayden.



After retiring, Bob became a dedicated volunteer for the next 25 years for TRACKS, Audubon, and the White Mountain Community Garden. Bob loved hiking and the environment of the White Mountains so **TRACKS** was a perfect fit. He was a Board Member, a trail steward, and a member of the trail crew. He helped build many of the trails of the White Mountain Trail System and those trails display his dedication and expertise. He was first to be at work on the trail and last to finish. He always carried a folding saw strapped to his belt so he could keep the trails clear. Bob had a quick wit and his humor often brightened the day for his colleagues.

Bob was a charter member of White Mountain **Audubon** Society. He and Loretta were active in meetings, field trips, and the annual bird count. According to WMAS President, Mary Ellen Bittorf, “Even in his 80’s, he always saw more birds than anyone else. He was such a fast hiker he came to the birds first, before anyone else arrived. Bob was someone who always found the task that needed to be done and did it. His passing is a big loss for us.”

Bob was also a founding member of White Mountain **Community Garden**, a place where both children and adults learn to grow lots of good things, rewards for working in the soil. WMCG is planting a tree in their Memorial Garden as a tribute to Bob.

The Memorial Service for Bob Pena will be at Unity Church, 257 N. Woodland Road in Lakeside on Saturday March 30 at 2 pm. Rather than flowers, the family prefers donations be made to TRACKS – mark checks “Bob Pena” and mail to TRACKS, 958 S. Woodland Road, Lakeside, AZ 85929. Donations can also be made on TRACKS website using debit or credit cards or PayPal. Go to the bottom of the homepage at trackswhitemountains.org, and click “Donate.”

Trail Crew Work. If trails are dry enough (hmmm?) we'll resume trail work in April - possibly as early as April 1. **Jerry Good** has agreed to serve as Trail Crew Boss for now, starting with west side trails. **Nick Lund** will email Trail Crew members a few days before each work session with details on when & where to meet. Bring work boots, gloves, water, and sunscreen. Hardhats and Tools are provided.

TRACKS April 2019 Event Calendar

March 30, Saturday 7:30 am	Walk for the Woods (W4W) monthly planning meeting	Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop (235 E. White Mountain Blvd.)
March 30, Saturday 2 pm	Memorial Service for Bob Pena	Unity Church on Woodland Road in Lakeside
April 1, Monday 8 am, for a few hrs. ☺	Trail Crew Work resumes IF things dry out. (Enjoying the rain & snow?)	Nick Lund will email Trail Crew re: when/where to meet
April 3, Wednesday 6:30 pm	Audubon Monthly Meeting: Fracking: Risks and Concerns by Dr. Kevin Gibson, PhD	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers
April 6, Saturday 10 am to 1 pm	Wilderness Safety and First Aid by Joanne Feller, RN (age 10 and up)	Aston Center @ Show Low NPC \$40
April 11, Thursday 1 pm	Monthly TRACKS Board Meeting	Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Rd. TRACKS members welcome
April 13, Saturday 8 am	Monthly TRACKS General Meeting	Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. Arrive early to order breakfast
April 13, Saturday 9 am to 1 pm	Tillman Honor Run (\$40+ registration fee)	Mountain Meadow, 1101 N. Woodland Road, Lakeside
April 15, Monday PM	Biomass Electricity Generation Field Trip to NovoBioPower in Snowflake	You must be among the first 25 to call 928-892-2724 to get on Pam Morrow's List and get time & carpool directions.
April 20, Saturday 10 am to 12 noon (8 am to hide the eggs!)	Mountain Meadow Easter Event 15,000Eggs, Bake Sale, Face Painting Easter Bunny @ 10:30, Hunt @ 11 am	Mountain Meadow, 1101 N. Woodland Road, Lakeside
April 23, Tuesday 8 am	Highway 260 Roadway Cleaning	8 am, meet behind Show Low Social Security Office; bring water, gloves, and hats.
Mondays	Trail Crew Work Resumes TRAIL CREW BOSS STILL NEEDED	To discuss volunteering as Trail Crew Boss, contact Jim (368-3283 or jim@snitzer.com)
Wednesdays	Up the Hill Gang Hikes continue into early Spring, weather permitting. Please contact Heather Steiner for information at steinerhm@aol.com or 480-620-1676	A more specific schedule will be in the Newsletter in May. Warm weather hikes are being planned & coordinated by Jim Meeker, Kay Alderton, Heather Steiner, and Arlene Nelson.

Tim Strand, RN, MD, RD, Editor



958 S. Woodland Road
Lakeside, AZ 85929