



January 2019 Newsletter

December TRACKS Meeting and Potluck: About 50 people attended the December TRACKS meeting and potluck at Jim Snitzer's place **on Rainbow Lake**. Wow! What a beautiful spot – a porch big enough for a square dance, a magnificent view of the Lake over the campfire on the shore, plus lots of good food and company. A good time was had by all.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January TRACKS Meeting: The next TRACKS General Meeting will be at Darbi's on Saturday January 12 at 8 AM; come earlier if you'd like to order breakfast.

Take a Winter Walk! Up the Hill Gang Hikes every Wednesday morning (weather permitting). December treks included brisk walks around Fool Hollow Lake and Torreon. Contact: Kay Alderton (928-367-7003) or Heather Steiner, (480-620-1676, steinerhm@AOL.com) for information.

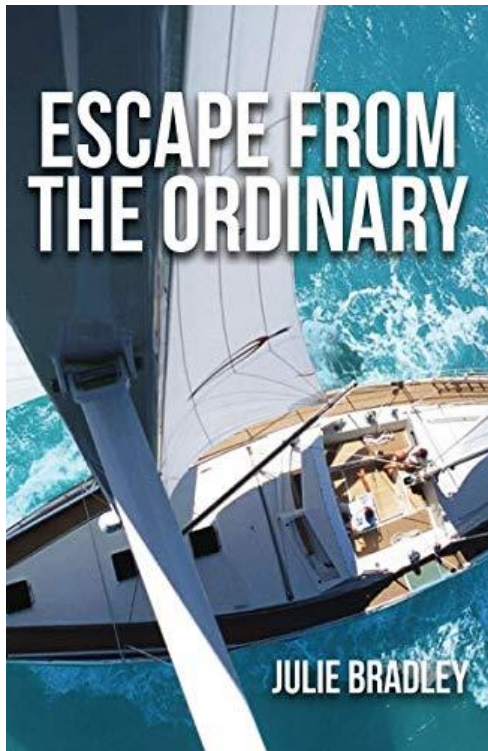
New TRACKS Board Member. On December 6, the TRACKS Board of Directors unanimously elected **Ron Miller** to serve as a member of the Board. Ron is highly trained and has many years of experience in Management of Forests in Alaska, New Mexico, and Arizona. He has extensive specialty training in **Silviculture**, a special branch of forestry dealing with the life history and characteristics of various species of trees, as well as care of forests, with a special emphasis on environmental factors. Welcome Ron! We're glad to have you on the Board.

White Mountain Audubon Society. There will be no general meeting in January BUT you can participate in the 119th(!!!) annual **Christmas Bird Count** on Saturday, January 5, 2019. First timers welcome! Meet at Darbi's restaurant in Pinetop at 7am for breakfast or a hot cup of joe. We'll divide into teams, be assigned an area and car pool if desired. You do not have to be an expert birder to participate since there is a task for everyone. Some people observe, some tally, some write notes. This event takes place in the morning so wear warm clothing, and bring binoculars. For those looking for a **warmer** place for **bird watching** in January, consider the Yuma Bird, Nature & History Festival, January 4-6. Birding and dozens of other activities. Details and registration at <https://yumahistorymuseum.org/yuma-bird-nature-history-festival/>



Save Our Park News -- Keeping Woodland Lake Park available for the community, and Keeping Water in the lake! Many people regularly enjoy Woodland Lake Park and its miles of forest trails. The current U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit for the park expires in December 2018, putting the park at some level of risk. Pinetop-Lakeside began efforts to acquire Woodland Lake Park from USFS many years ago but progress has thus far been glacial. **Save Our Park (SOP)**, a local non-profit organization, has been helping for the past 10 years. There have been several recent promising developments. In March of 2018, **SOP** paid \$22,500 for an appraisal of the value of the park. The final review of that appraisal by Forestry is scheduled to be done by the end of December. That will clarify the amount of money required to purchase the developed area of the park, allowing the Town and Save Our Park to work together with the community to raise the necessary funds. In addition, on December 4, the Town made an agreement with SLPWIC, the local irrigation company, to work, in spite of the drought, to maintain a better supply of water for the lake.

The **Save Our Park Board** meets at 2pm the second Monday of each month at the new Town Hall. The Next meeting, focusing on ways to fund purchase of the park, will be on January 14. All TRACKS members are welcome.



Julie Bradley, a TRACKS member has just published her first book about her and Glen's adventures sailing the world. She shares the following.

"I am thrilled to announce that I am the proud parent of "*Escape from the Ordinary*", about our sailing voyage adventures. It starts in Russia on my last deployment as a nuclear weapons inspector, then goes right into the juicy travel parts. I sent the draft out for Advance Reviews and one said, '...I recommend *Escape from the Ordinary* for anyone who likes to view life outside the conventional norm and aspires to adventure.' **The new book is for sale through the Amazon links below.**

PLEASE go online and leave a review. More than anything, I hope you enjoy reading it." Julie

Book <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1732918406>

Ebook https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07LCDX6JQ/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&i

And Remember, if you use www.smile.amazon.com for your Amazon orders, they will make a small donation to TRACKS. It costs you nothing. You can use your regular Amazon user name and password and simply search for "TRACKS Inc" located in Lakeside Arizona as the non-profit organization to get the donation. Thank you Amazon!

AZ Game and Fish (G&F) will host an **Eagle Workshop** at White Mountains Nature Center the last weekend in January (1/25-26/19). **A \$10 donation to the Nature Center is requested.** Scheduled events are as follows:

Friday 5:30-7:30pm Eagle films and short talks
Saturday 9am **Free** Kids Talk (with live eagles)
10am Live eagles for viewing (shared by Liberty Wildlife)
11am Eagle Management in AZ (by AZ Game & Fish)
1pm to 4pm Talks on nature photography, on eagles in the White Mountains and in Native Culture
11am-2pm Eagle viewing with naturalists at Lazy Oaks Resort at Rainbow Lake (with a limited number of binoculars and scopes).



A more detailed schedule is available on Facebook @AZGFDPinetop or contact Diane Tilton at 928-532-3691 or dtilton@azgfd.gov.



TRACKS Bikers in the Desert. A group of TRACKS mountain bikers recently enjoyed riding at Maricopa County McDowell Mountain Park.

Environmental News -- Biomass. The forest is an important part of our environment. Activities decreasing risk of forest fires are newsworthy. One such activity is forest biomass electricity generation. Right, so **What is Forest Biomass? Biomass is the underbrush, branches, smaller trees, and other forest thinning debris that can be used to generate electricity!** This forest debris is often left in unsightly piles in the forest awaiting the controlled burns that remove the slash but bring air-pollution to the mountains. There's a better alternative – **Biomass powerplants**, and we have one locally – **Novo BioPower** in Snowflake. If you're interested in learning more about generating electricity from biomass, call TRACKS member Pam Morrow at 928-892-2724 and get on her list for **the next tour, scheduled for 1pm Tuesday 2/5/19.** If no one answers at Pam's phone, leave a message (no text messages please).

Report Volunteer Hours: Please be sure, by the end of December, to report your volunteer hours during 2018 to Nick for the **TRACKS annual report** (lundaz@cableone.net or 928-241-2444). Include ANY volunteering you do for TRACKS or otherwise, and include travel time in the hours. Remember to include time you spent on boards, commissions, significant committees, and the names of those organizations. And keep up the good work!

January Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time and Details
Tuesday, January 1	Happy New Year	Live Long and Prosper
Saturday, January 5	Audubon Event: Annual Christmas Bird Count	7:00am Meet at Darbi's, Training will be given
Thursday, January 10	TRACKS Board Meeting	1:00pm at the Nature Center.
Saturday, January 12	TRACKS General Meeting	8:00am at Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. Arrive early to order breakfast
Friday & Saturday, January 25 & 26	Game & Fish Eagle Workshop at the Nature Center	5:30-7:30pm Friday & 9am to 4pm Saturday
Wednesdays	Up the Hill Gang Hikes Contact Kay Alderton (928-367-7003 or Heather Steiner (steinerhm@AOL.com or 480-620-1676) for info	9 AM most Wednesdays, weather permitting



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