



## August 2019 Newsletter

*for hikers, bikers, equestrians and other nature lovers*

**Saturday July 13 General Meeting:** Over 40 people came to the potluck meeting at 8 am at the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park. We welcomed back members **Dan and Jan Nowell**, who had been away. **Jim Snitzer** led the meeting and discussed many things, including the following:

- all trail steward and trailhead adopter positions are now filled! Thanks!
- members are exploring possible work as webmaster & UTH gang leader,
- Jim can make trail signs and diamonds, so let him know if any needed,
- work continues on getting trail-access signs along Highway 260,
- a big “THANKS” to **Bill Lucas** for chainsaw work clearing the trails,
- various insurance issues regarding TRACKS, and
- the option of donating to TRACKS by way of wills and bequests.

**Lynn Krigbaum** discussed significant progress by Save Our Park to help the Town buy Woodland Lake Park. **Jerry Good** welcomed us to come help on Trail Crew 7:30am Mondays. **Arlene Nelson** let us know she has TRACKS short sleeved (\$15) and long sleeved (\$20) T-shirts and Hoodies (\$40) with her at all times (almost) so let her know if you'd like one.

**Nick Lund** notified us that TRACKS now has over 500 members. He reminded us to report ALL January-to-June volunteer hours to him and also to plan to volunteer for the October Tour of the White Mountains bike event (more on that later in the Newsletter). Finally, **Tim Strand** discussed the educational and entertaining nature of the Friday morning Ranger-Guided walks at Fools Hollow Lake (more on this later). After the meeting, several members hiked downstream from Woodland Lake to enjoy the beauty of Walnut Creek.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The next TRACKS General Meeting** will be a potluck breakfast in the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park at **8 am Saturday August 10**. Enjoy a stroll around the lake after breakfast.

## **IMPORTANT – Annual Membership Renewal**

by **Nick Lund**

Each year TRACKS asks members to renew their membership to keep our TRACKS database accurate. If you joined TRACKS in 2019, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING in this regard. For all others, please contact Nick (928-241-2444 or [lundaz@cableone.net](mailto:lundaz@cableone.net)) letting him know to renew your membership including any changes in phone number, address, email and in any of the TRACKS email lists you want to be on. If you've not renewed by September 10 you'll be dropped from the membership roll – no more Newsletter, no more Calendar of outdoor events ☹️ Let Nick hear from you. We sincerely hope you'll continue as a member and supporter of TRACKS 😊

**Wednesday morning Up the Hill Gang Hikes!** (Volunteer Coordinator Needed)  
**Get out! Get some fresh air and sunshine. Get in a few thousand steps!**  
Pinetop KFC **6:45am every Wednesday in August.** See Calendar for details. Also, **we still need a volunteer to replace Heather Steiner** in sending out weekly emails with hike info to UTHG hikers through Fall, Winter, and Spring.

## **White Mountain Nature Center Discovery Programs,**

Family Fun at **10 am Saturdays.** Enjoy **Nature Bingo**

on the Nature Center Trail (8/3) and a session on Fly

Fishing (8/17). On **Pollinator Day** (8/10) you can

learn about the **Birds and Bees** from beekeepers,

scientists, local farmers and gardeners as well as learning about **Butterflies** and the Scottsdale Butterfly

Wonderland! The last Discovery Program of the season will be the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Woodland Wildlife Festival** (8/31) with interactive booths and displays, wild animals, demonstrations and exhibits. The Wildlife World Zoo requests a \$1 (!!!)

donation for their presentations at 11 am and 1 pm. What else can you get for a buck? (Note: there's no Discovery Program 8/24 because of the Humane Society's **Happy Tails** Auction and BBQ; for more info on that call 368-3295.)



## **Fools Hollow Lake Ranger-Guided walks and hikes at 9 am every Friday.**

This is an opportunity to get in to the State Park for free, avoiding the usual \$7-10 charge! Tell the gatekeeper you're there for the Forest Service walk. I was in a group of 20 (half were kids) and the Forest Ranger, **Lorna**, was great!

“Short easy walks” August 2, 16, & 30, meet at the east side boat ramp.

Slightly more rugged hikes August 9 & 23, meet at Adair Amphitheater (get a map and directions at the entry gate). For more information on this and other Forest Service Programs at the Lake call Lakeside Ranger Station 368-2100.

**Yoga in the Park** 6:30-7:30 am (!!!) **every Monday in August** at the baseball diamond at Woodland Lake Park. Bring your own mat. The event is free but **please bring food suitable for local food banks.** These wake-up sessions are sponsored by Open Spaces Yoga Center in Lakeside. Contact **Lauren** for additional info, 928-367-4636 or see [www.openspacesyoga.com](http://www.openspacesyoga.com).

**White Mtn Audubon Society (WMAS):** (All are welcome at **WMAS** events.)  
**THREE** Audubon events of interest this month: Brief descriptions follow. See [whitemountainaudubon.org/special-events](http://whitemountainaudubon.org/special-events) for more information.

1. August 7 (Wed) 6:30pm: **Apache Tribal Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood** will talk about the positive impact of WMAS from an Apache perspective, relating stories of Apache Audubon-scholarship recipients. Meet at P-L Town Council Chambers, 325 W. White Mtn Blvd.
2. August 17 (Sat) 7am: Field Trip to **Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Birding Trails**. Plan to meet at Pinetop Game and Fish Office and then caravan or carpool for 20-30 minutes. The Hatchery is in a beautiful location just below rugged cliffs of the Mogollon Rim.
3. August 23 (Fri) 5-6pm: **Birding in the White Mountains** by **Mary Williams**, a presentation at P-L Town Hall. Power Point with pictures of about 50 species of birds (a new group, not the same ones as last month). She will discuss details for a **Birdwalk** to be held the following morning. You can contact Mary for more info at [mary.williams@arizonachristian.edu](mailto:mary.williams@arizonachristian.edu) or at 480-235-1792.



The **Pinetop-Lakeside Fall Festival** is right around the corner! Only 2 months away and we know how the summer flies by. The opening ceremony for the gala events of the weekend is **the parade**. Last year 53 TRACKS members helped and we won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for best entry. Here's hoping even more members will participate this year. "**Great American Heroes**" is the theme. As possible American heroes consider John Wesley **Powell**, John **Muir**, Henry David **Thoreau**, **Lewis** and **Clark**, Teddy **Roosevelt**, and of course, **Lincoln** and **FDR**. Specific plans for our entry have not yet been made, so any suggestions are more than welcome. We'll need a song to incorporate the theme and our group, so put your thinking caps on – let's come up with a good one again. And you might want to get one of our new TRACKS T-shirts to wear while marching in the parade. If you need a T-shirt or have suggestions for the parade call **Arlene Nelson** at 928-368-6810 or 928-242-4639. (Thanks, Arlene)

**Saturday, August 17, Movies in the Park**, starts at 7:30 pm at Mountain Meadow – Admission Free! Concessions, Popcorn. Bring folding chairs, blankets, etc. The Movie is The Incredibles 2, a cartoon superhero film in which Mr. Incredible must stay home and manage the house while his wife Helen (aka Elastigirl) goes out to save the world! We wish her success!

## Volunteer Still Needed for Trail Crew Boss



**What Does the Trail Boss Do?** They collect information from Trail Stewards, members and the public on any kind of damage in the trail system. They then create a schedule for Trail Crew work. They need to figure out how to get the Crew as close to the work site as possible and arrange for someone (usually **Jim**

**Snitzer**) to drive the equipment trailer to the work site. At the work site, the Trail Boss explains to the Crew what needs to be done and supervises the job. It's also the responsibility of the Trail Boss to work with Jim and his tools (and sometimes the whole Crew) to keep tools in good working condition.

**We Have Lots of Volunteers but Need a Few More.** (by **Jim Snitzer**)

TRACKS now has over 500 members - we need more of you fine folks to sign up to be volunteers. There are many opportunities for service - we need a Trail Boss (see above), Trail Crew workers, UTHG Hike leaders, web masters, and volunteers for the Fall Festival Parade (in September) and Tour of the White Mountains (in October). We have gotten so big that now we sometimes have conflicting activities on the same day - for example, we now have hikes and trail work both happening on Monday mornings. It is great that folks are out enjoying hikes in the forest, but our Trail Crew that used to often hit 20 folks is now often in the low teens, so we need some new folks to come out and enjoy that activity with us too. Contact [jim@snitzer.org](mailto:jim@snitzer.org) to volunteer.

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**White Mountains 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival** June 28-30 was a big hit, with an attendance of **2,000 people Friday, 3,000 on Saturday!** TRACKS members **Jim & Anne Book** won the hot air balloon ride. Anne overcame her fear of heights and she and Jim really enjoyed more than an hour of flying, including a "splash and dash" in Rainbow Lake. They enjoyed waving and talking to the poor folks stuck on the ground (or water) below. Sales of raffle tickets brought in \$500 for TRACKS.

**Fire Restrictions Coordinating Group Report. Weather:** Monsoons have started, ground still dry. **Restrictions:** None. **Fire Conditions:** High. **Reported Fires (all contained):** **Blue River Fire** (near Alpine), **Whiting Knoll Fire** (near Greens Peak), **Woodbury Fire** (near Roosevelt).

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual TOUR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS** by Nick Lund  
Saturday October 5, 2019. **Please mark this date on your calendar.**

**Ninety (90 !!!) TRACKS Volunteers Needed to help with this mountain bike-riding event.** Epic Rides of Tucson manages the event and riders can choose rides of 9, 35 or 50 miles on our White Mountains Trail System or take a 30-mile forest road ride. Last year there were about 750 riders. TRACKS **volunteers** help pin-flag and de-flag routes, serve at aid stations, guide riders at critical turn points in the forest, help at the kids ride in the venue, direct campers to sites in the start/finish area, etc. For our efforts Epic Rides makes a nice donation to TRACKS to help with our work on the White Mountain Trail System (last year \$3,600!). For those who **volunteer** right away, you can let us know if you want the same location as last year or tell us what you would like to do during the event. **Please respond no later than Friday, September 20 by contacting Nick (928-241-2444 or [lundaz@cablone.net](mailto:lundaz@cablone.net)).** The earlier you volunteer, the sooner the entire volunteer plan can be formulated. This is a great, fun community event that benefits TRACKS and the region, so please save the date and come and help.



**Ad & Pro Report: Lynn Krigbaum** gives a report on **TRACKS** and the White Mountain Nature Center (**WMNC**) at the monthly Pinetop-Lakeside Advertising and Promotion Meeting. Highlights from the July 17 meeting – **For TRACKS:** There is a General Meeting of the membership each month. The Trail Crew works each Monday morning, this month on the 4 Springs Trail, one of the trails used in October’s **Tour of the White Mountains Mountain Bike event**. The Wednesday morning hikes continue to be well attended and appreciated. Membership has risen to 527! Most people join for the Newsletter which is sent monthly and gives information not only about TRACKS, but also about other local meetings and events of interest to hikers,

bikers, equestrians, and Cross-Country skiers. Two Mt. Baldy hikes as well as 4 Springs and Chipmunk Trail hikes are on the schedule in the near future. We have recently had inquiries about designating TRACKS as a beneficiary in a person's will or trust document (more information on this at the end of the Newsletter). It's heartwarming to see people wanting to leave a legacy supporting TRACKS. The 200-mile trail system is a great asset for the Town.

**For WMNC:** The Discovery Series of Saturday events has been very popular. Attendance has been 50-100 people at each program. Programs will continue through Labor Day. All are welcome and you are invited! There will be a few extra programs including a presentation for "Members Only." There are also times scheduled for a group coming back for a second year from Sun City. The Discovery Nature Camp has also been very successful this year. These successful events show that the Nature Center is providing an excellent experience for people and acting as an economic booster! The main fundraiser for the **Nature Center** is the **Annual Benefit Dinner** scheduled for 4:30 PM on Saturday, September 14th at Hon-dah Resort. There will be auctions, raffles, balloons, games, music and dancing in addition to the buffet. Tickets are \$50 before August 31, \$60 in September. Attending this event is a great way to help the Nature Center continue as an asset to the region. Contact WMNC President **Kathy Dahnk** (928-358-3069) if you have gift certificates, items to donate for the event, or to purchase tickets. Kathy is at the Nature Center Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 2.

**Trail Signs** by **Ron Miller**, Trail Steward Coordinator  
**Jim Snitzer**, our TRACKS President, can make trail signs that replicate Forest Service signs and be a great addition to our hiking trails. It's easiest for Jim to make a bunch of signs at one time, so, Trail Stewards, please make a list of trail signs you need for your trails. The signs will give the trail's name and need to be posted along major junctions where people might get lost or not know where a trail starts. Members can also email trail-sign suggestions to [jim@snitzer.org](mailto:jim@snitzer.org). Please get requests to Jim by the end of August. Thanks.

**Walk for the Woods Commemorative T-shirts still available: \$10.**

Sizes (number): Medium (9), Large (20), XL (10), XXL (1)

### (FYI)Regarding Donations and Wills

Please consider donating to TRACKS, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible. Your financial support is important and helps our trail building and maintenance program (tools, signs, etc), plus other organizational expenses, including insurance, mailing, etc. You can donate using PayPal on [www.trackswhitemountains.org](http://www.trackswhitemountains.org) or by sending a check to TRACKS, 958 S. Woodland Rd, Lakeside AZ 85929. Finally, TRACKS can be listed in your will. Our tax ID number is 46-1578174, if that's helpful. Your trust administrator can take it from there. Thanks for your support.

## TRACKS Event Calendar – August 2019

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location, Details</b>
Monday Mornings 7:30 am	<b>Trail Crew (T.C.): Help Beautify the Trails</b> (weather permitting)	To get on T.C. List contact Nick (lundaz@cableone.net)
Monday Mornings 6:30 to 7:30 am	<b>Yoga in the Park</b> (weather permitting)	Woodland Lake Park Baseball Diamonds
Wednesday Mornings 6:45 am	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</b> (weather permitting)	See August 7,14,21,28 below
Friday Mornings 9 am	<b>Ranger-Guided Walks</b> (for more info see page 2 above)	Fools Hollow Lake E. boat ramp or Adair Theater
Saturday Mornings 10 am	<b>Nature Center Discovery Programs</b>	White Mtn Nature Center 425 Woodland Road, Lakeside
August 3, Saturday 10 am	<b>Nature Bingo:</b> Follow your Nature Bingo card to “Nature Stations” featuring mini-talks by local experts on our Nature Center Trail	<b>Nature Center Discovery Program</b> 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
August 7, Wednesday 6:45 am	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</b> <b>Four Springs Trail #652 to Lake Mtn Lookout</b> with Leader <b>Jim Meeker</b>	Pinetop KFC parking lot. 4.5 miles, quite steep in parts Carpool \$5
August 7, Wednesday 6:30 pm	<b>Audubon Society Monthly Meeting:</b> <b>Apache Tribe Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood;</b> details in Audubon section above	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers 325 W. White Mountain Blvd.
August 8, Thursday 1 pm	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting</b> (members welcome)	Nature Center 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
August 10, Saturday 8 am	<b>TRACKS General Meeting and Potluck Breakfast:</b> Bring a dish to share.	Woodland Lake Park Large Ramada
August 10, Saturday 10 am	<b>Pollinator Day:</b> The importance of bees, butterflies and birds. Learn how to garden without hurting them!	<b>Nature Center Discovery Program</b> 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
August 14, Wednesday 6:45 am	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</b> <b>E. Baldy Trail #95 to the Rocks</b> from Gabaldon Campground, Leader <b>Pam Morrow</b>	Pinetop KFC parking lot. 5 miles, quite steep in parts Carpool \$5
August 17, Saturday 7 am	<b>Audubon Field Trip to Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery</b>	Meet at Pinetop Game & Fish, carpool/caravan 20-30 min.
August 17, Saturday 10 am	<b>Fly Fishing</b> Learn from members of the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club	<b>Nature Center Discovery Program</b> 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
August 17, Saturday 7:30 pm	<b>Movie in Park: Incredibles 2</b> Elastigirl saves the world (we hope!)	Mountain Meadow 1101 S. Woodland Road
August 21, Wednesday 6:45 am	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</b> <b>South Fork Trail #97 along Little Colorado</b> Leader <b>Kay Alderton</b>	Pinetop KFC parking lot. 6 miles moderate hiking at 7000 to 8000 ft. Carpool \$5
August 23, Friday 5-6 pm	<b>Birding in the White Mountains</b> Bird info & pictures by <b>Mary Williams</b>	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chamber
August 28, Wednesday 6:45 am	<b>Up the Hill Gang Hike:</b> <b>Los Burros Trail #631</b> Leader <b>Ginny Bartes</b>	Pinetop KFC parking lot. 5 miles moderate hiking. Carpool \$5
August 31, Saturday 10 am	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodland Wildlife Festival</b> Interactive booths, displays, wild animals, demonstrations and exhibits.	<b>Nature Center Discovery Program</b> 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside

**Tim Strand, RN, MD, RD, TRACKS Newsletter Editor**

## **Environmental (Bad) News**

by **Pam Morrow**

In mid-July the Arizona Corporation Commission (AZCC) voted 3-2 against a proposed rule requiring utility companies to produce electricity by burning biomass from forest thinning. This vote destroys the main financial incentive for forest thinning and increases risk of catastrophic forest fires in mountain communities like our own. The 3 voting against the rule were **Justin Olson**, **Bob Burns** and **Sandra Kennedy**. Letters requesting reconsideration of this vote because our homes and community are threatened should be sent to the specific commissioners listed above at 1300 W. Washington Street, Phoenix 85003.

**And finally**, if you want more outdoor-related reading, there are an additional 20-30 pages of good stuff in “A Guide to Outdoor Safety and Health” at <https://www.safehome.org/resources/outdoor-safety-health-guide/>.



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