



September 2019 Newsletter

For hikers, bikers, kayakers, equestrians, and other nature lovers

Saturday August 10 General Meeting: There were 25 people at the meeting-potluck at the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park. There were 2 guests, **Johnse Good**, Jerry Good's son, and **Bob Gahagan**, Kevin Gahagan's grandfather. **Jim Snitzer** led the meeting. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Fall Festival Parade (more on this later)
- Memorials for **Bob Pena** and **Liz Wise**
- The importance of being Firewise
- The community's new Collection/Recycling Center
- Woodland Lake fundraising prospects (more on this later)
- Jerry Good's "Thanks" to everyone working on the Trail Crew



After the meeting, Joan Patrick led a walk around the Lake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next General Meeting will be a potluck breakfast (last one of the Season) at the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park at **8am Saturday, September 14.**

Coming the end of August! -- 14th Annual Woodland Wildlife Festival, Saturday, August 31 from 10am to 2pm at the Nature Center. Lots going on including interactive booths and displays, wild animals, exhibits, artisans, a guided nature walk and arts & crafts opportunities. Hot dogs for sale by Cub Scout Troop 63. The largest collection of exotic and endangered animals in Arizona is at the Wildlife World Zoo, NW of Phoenix. They'll be bringing many animals and giving presentations at 11am and 1pm (\$1 donation requested). The festival is **FREE** except for the Wildlife World Zoo presentations.

YOU can Help in the Fall Festival Parade!

by **Arlene Nelson**

The parade, a 2-mile walk or bike ride, is lots of fun! Please come, help out and join in showing TRACKS to be an active and supportive group in our community. **Volunteers are still needed.** You can walk or ride or *stride* down Main Street Pinetop. Contact **Arlene Nelson** (928-368-6810) or **Nick Lund** (928-241-2444) to join the parade.

The parade is scheduled to start at 10 am on Saturday, September 28 but all **parade volunteers should check in at the staging area by 9:30**. The staging area is the parking lot directly across from BBVA Compass Bank, at the SE corner of White Mountain Blvd and Malapia Drive. Do not park there but go there for directions. The parade ends at Blue Ridge High School and so, I strongly suggest you **arrive at the High School Parking lot around 9:15 am** so you can meet other volunteers to carpool from there to Malapia Drive, to prevent having to walk back to the start-up spot. Bikers can peddle back.



The theme of the parade is “Great American Heroes,” and there was unanimous agreement on **John Muir** as our Hero. He was a naturalist who believed in preserving areas of natural beauty and worked hard to do so by founding the Sierra Club and promoting the formation of National Parks.

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

TRACKS Volunteers still needed to help with this mountain bike ride event. Epic Rides of Tucson manages the event, and makes a nice donation to TRACKS for our efforts (last year \$3,600!). Riders can choose rides of 9, 35 or 50 miles on our White Mountains Trail System or 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. Please contact **Nick Lund** (lundaz@cablone.net or 928-241-2444) to **volunteer no later than Friday, September 20**. Let Nick know your T-shirt size, cell phone # and if you will attend the dinner for volunteers the day before the event, Friday, October 4. 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.

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

1. September 4 (Wed) 6:30pm: **Dennis Tomko**, President of Northern AZ Audubon (NAAS) will talk about 4 bird sanctuaries they’ve developed.

2. September 21 (Sat) 7am: Field Trip to **Sheep's Crossing Area**. Directions are complex – for details contact Rob Bettaso at rhilbe739@gmail.com or 928-368-8481. Allow at least 1¼ hour travel time.
3. September 13 (Fri) 5-6pm: The third **Birding in the White Mountains** talk by **Mary Williams**, P-L Town Hall. These have been enjoyed by more than 20 people at each session. There will be a bird walk the following morning. Learn more at mary.williams@arizonachristian.edu or call 480-235-1792.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The 14th Annual White Mountain Nature Center Benefit Dinner will take place Saturday, September 14 at Hon-Dah Resort and Conference Center. This year's event is called *A Starry Night for Nature*. Doors open 4:30 pm, dinner at 6. There'll be auctions, raffles, balloons bags, games, music and dancing, in addition to the buffet. This fun-filled event helps fund the Center's many programs and operations. Tickets are \$50 through August 31 for WMNC members and \$60 for non-members and September purchases. Contact WMNC President **Kathy Dahnk** (928-358-3069) to donate gift certificates or items. Tickets can be purchased at the Nature Center, from Board members, at Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, or at the door. Supporting this event is a great way to help the Nature Center continue as an asset to the region.



News about Woodland Lake Park

by **Lynn Krigbaum**

Save Our Park has been working diligently to spread the word that the Forest Service owns the Park, the Town wants to buy it, and has been spending \$250,000 a year to maintain it! They are also now spending \$3000 per month to help keep water in the lake. No wonder there's no money to buy the Park. BUT Save Our Park (SOP) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to raising the \$1,635,000 needed to buy the 107 acres which is the developed Park we all know and love. SOP has hired a fundraising group to raise the "big" money from prospective donors and foundations. Locally we are telling people about "what's-going-on" with the Park and getting donations through PayPal via our website www.woodlandlakepark.com and from cash, checks and other donations. We are also trying to raise money for purchase of the Park by selling a week in a Pinetop condo which has been donated to us at Quality Hills Resort, a nice place for friends to spend a week. If interested in that way of helping Save the Park, call **Lynn Krigbaum** at 928-242-8814.

There are other ways to get involved. Remember, 35 cents buy one square foot of the Park, so everyone can help! Bring money to the TRACKS General Meeting on September 14th or send a check to Save Our Park, P.O. Box 2375, Lakeside, AZ 85929. If you donate \$100 or more, I will send you the beautiful Woodland Lake Park DVD made by **Barbara Davis**. Donations are welcomed, acknowledged and tax deductible. With everyone's help we'll Save Our Park!!!

It's a great time of year to go Biking! You can go on your own of course BUT, if you'd like company, consider getting on the TRACKS mountain-biking list at lundaz@cablone.net. Rides are on Tue/Thu/Sat mornings until mid-October. These are social, not competitive, rides. Most routes are on forest service roads with single-track trails at times. An email is sent describing routes for the upcoming week, including more challenging routes for "crushers" and shorter routes for "cruisers." Riders must wear a helmet, sign a waiver of liability, bring water, and make sure their bike is in good condition. Good places for bike repairs and service are Cycle Mania in Show Low (537-8812) and the newly opened Pinetop Bike Shop (928-756-9060 or pinetopbikeshop.com).



Fire Restrictions Coordinating Group Report: The weather has been good to the mountain, so fire conditions are **Moderate**. There are **No** fire restrictions. However, there was a very informative article in the 8/16/2019 White Mountain Independent that presents a very frightening comparison of our region with Paradise, CA. Surprisingly, **our wildfire rating is higher!!!** If you missed the article, go on-line to [8/16 White Mountain Independent fire risk](#).



White Mountain Trail System: The **Trail Crew** has been busy making the trails even better! About 25 people have been working every Monday morning. Trails beautified recently include 4 Springs, Turkey Track and Walnut Creek (really beautiful). The crew has also begun work on a new bike trail behind the high school. You can volunteer to help at lundaz@cablone.net.



Lake Powell Report: This year 7 TRACKS members volunteered as “Trash Trackers” at Lake Powell. This is a really great combination of work, play and relaxation. Lake Powell is a truly awesome place, 185 miles long with 100 amazing side canyons – all needing to be checked and cleaned by the Trash Trackers. In exchange for your part-time work you get to spend 5-7 days on a houseboat on the lake **FOR FREE!** You can find lots of information for next year’s trips at www.nps.gov/glca/getinvolved/trashtracker.

A Firewise Block Party was held last month at the Blue Ridge Elementary school. Volunteers handed out backpacks filled with information to help save lives and property from wildfire. Face-painting for kids, food, raffles and free information were the extra bonuses for coming out and learning to be prepared. Speakers were scheduled throughout the day on subjects relating to protection of property from fire. The event was hosted by Pinetop and Timber Mesa Fire Districts and supported by community partners. **Jim Snitzer** represented TRACKS by handing out helpful information and chatting with the public on various topics involving our group. TRACKS highly recommends this event and hopes that others within our membership will attend future Firewise events.

Up the Hill Gang, Wednesday August 14 – **WOW, What a group! Thirty (!)** hikers followed leader **Pam Morrow** up the East Baldy Trail to the Rocks, always a beautiful hike with a great view. Contact Jim Meeker to be added to the email list for Wednesday hikes (jmeeker@azsunshine.us).



OTHER SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT ENJOY:

Lots going on around Town!

Saturday, September 21 Crawtoberfest: Fundraiser for Summit **Cancer** Center and S-L Chamber of Commerce, 11am to 10pm at Mountain Meadow. Crawfish, corn, potatoes and beer! Live music and all you can eat for \$30-35. For more info and tickets go to www.crawtoberfest.com.

Saturday, September 21 Off-Road/Outdoor Expo Veterans Benefit, 6-8am breakfast (\$5), activities 9am to 4pm at the Nature Center, including an off-road rally, hunting and fishing exhibits and vendors, food vendors, and wildlife exhibits. Jeep registration \$35 at P-L Chamber of Commerce 928-367-4290.

September 27-29, Annual Fall Artisans' Festival at the Orchard at Charlie Clark's in Pinetop, \$2, 11am to 5pm (3pm Sunday). Live music, food and drink, a bouncy kids' zone, hand-crafted gifts, Native American crafts. Contact **Lynn Krigbaum** if you'd like to volunteer to help at the TRACKS table (928-242-8814 or gemma.krigmaum@yahoo.com).

September 27-29, Annual "Run to the Pines" Car Show. Saturday (8am to 4pm) and Sunday (8am to 12 noon) you can see nearly 600 very fancy old (pre-1973) cars on display at Pinetop Lakes Country Club. Starting at 4pm Friday you can watch 'em all in motion, the Cavalcade totally taking over White Mountain Boulevard from Show Low to Hon-Dah. Expect a great show. More info at runtothepinescarshow.com.

Saturday September 28, Cool-Running 10K and 2-mile Fun Run/Walk at Woodland Lake Park. This is part of the Fall Festival. Register at 6:30 am/Run at 7. Entrance fees \$25 for 10K, \$15 for 2-mile. T-shirt for all entrants, medals for fastest 3 in each category. **TRACKS volunteers needed for 3 water stations.** Contact **Malaina** to volunteer → mspillman@pinetop-lakesideaz.gov.

TRACKS September 2019 Event Calendar

Date and Time	Event	Location, Details
Monday Mornings 7:30 am	Trail Crew (T.C.): Help Beautify the Trails (weather permitting)	To get on T.C. List contact Nick (lundaz@cableone.net)
August 31, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm	14th Annual Woodland Wildlife Festival Interactive booths, displays, wild animals, demos and exhibits (see Newsletter page 1)	Nature Center 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside wmnature.org
Sept 4, Wednesday 6:45 am	Up the Hill Gang Hike: Baldy Crossover from Phelps Cabin with Leader Ron Miller	Pinetop KFC parking lot 5 miles, quite steep in places Carpool \$5
Sept 4, Wednesday 6:30 pm	WM Audubon Society Meeting: Dennis Tomko, President of N Az Audubon (NAAS) on 4 bird sanctuaries developed by NAAS	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W. White Mountain Blvd. www.whitemountainaudubon.org
Sept 5, Thursday 1 pm	TRACKS Board Meeting (members welcome)	Nature Center 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
Sept 11, Wednesday 6:45 am	Up the Hill Gang Hike: East Fork Trail with Leader Jim Meeker	Pinetop KFC parking lot 5 miles, moderate, Carpool \$5
Sept 14, Saturday 8 am	TRACKS General Meeting and Potluck Bring dish to share.	Woodlake Lake Park Large Ramada
Sept 14, Saturday 4:30 pm	14th Annual Nature Center Benefit Dinner (see Newsletter page 3 for details)	Hon-Dah Resort and Convention Center 777 Highway 260, Pinetop
Sept 18, Wednesday 6:45 am	Up the Hill Gang Hike: #94 West Baldy from Sheep's Crossing Bridge – Hike Leader Needed	Pinetop KFC parking lot 5 miles, strenuous hike Carpool \$5
Sept 21, Saturday 7 am	WM Audubon Society Field Trip to Sheep's Crossing	For info and directions call Rob Bettaso 928-368-8481
Sept 21, Saturday 9 am – 4 pm	2019 WMNC Off-Road/Outdoor Expo Veterans Benefit	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Rd Lakeside
Sept 21, Saturday 7 pm	Movies in the Park Zootopia	Mountain Meadow 1101 S. Woodland Road
Sept 25, Wednesday 8:45 am hike, Potluck to follow	Up the Hill Gang Hike and Potluck Leader Russ Coon Bring a dish to share after the hike.	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Road, Lakeside
Sept 27 - 29, Fri-Sun 11 am – 5 pm (Sunday 10-3)	44th Annual Fall Artisan Festival Handmade crafted items by artisans from around the country, live music, food and drink, plus a kid's zone	The Orchard at Charlie Clark's 1701 E. White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop
Sept 27 - 29, Fri-Sun (see Newsletter page 6)	Annual Run to the Pines Car Show (runtothepinescarshow.com)	Pinetop Lakes Golf and Country Club
Sept 28, Saturday Parade starts at 10 am Volunteers earlier!	Fall Festival Parade TRACKS is in the parade! (See Newsletter article pages 1-2 for details)	Hwy 260 between Charlie Clark's and Blue Ridge High School
Oct 5, Saturday 7 am to 3 pm	Tour of the White Mountain (TOWM) Bike Race (More than 700 bikes!)	Pinetop Lakes Activity and Equestrian Center

**Tim Strand, RN, MD, RD, TRACKS Newsletter Editor, and
with special thanks to Cathy Purvis for editing and computer assistance**



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