



## TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

Thanks to our trail crew 2019 was a very busy and productive year! We worked on many old trails and created a new trail for the Junior High so that the students could utilize and learn mountain biking trail skills. Trail Crew work is suspended for winter and will resume later in the spring possibly as early as April depending on weather conditions.

### TRACKS Volunteering

Please remember to keep a record of your volunteer hours, except for trail crew hours which are recorded each time the crew works. ALL your volunteering, for TRACKS and any other volunteering you do. Include your travel time in the hours. Estimating the hours is fine. We report the volunteerism by our members in the annual report, so please take time to keep track. You can report your hours to Nick Lund, [lundaz@cableone.net](mailto:lundaz@cableone.net), monthly or annually. There is an independent organization that provides the hourly rate by state for volunteering. The dollar amount provided by TRACKS members is impressive!

## WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center, in cooperation with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona Game and Fish Department and other partners offers hands-on, outdoor presentations, hikes, and workshops to the public.

Programs provide family-oriented fun with a discovery focus on increasing awareness, understanding and responsible action towards nature. Most programs are free of charge. For more information, call (928) 358-3069 for more information from the Nature Center.

Our 2019 New Year's Eve Fundraiser included a potluck, music by Fat Chance and the opportunity to contribute to several local non-profits a fun event and enjoyed by all!

Winter is a slower time for our programs and events. Visit our Facebook page to get frequent updates at: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>

For more information on The Nature Center visit our website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/>

## SPOTLIGHT – Scholarships Available for Summit for Arizona Trails

The Summit for Arizona Trails is a great opportunity for students and young professionals to engage in motorized and non-motorized trail advocacy, share knowledge, advance stewardship, and build relationships with other outdoor recreation advocates and professionals. The Summit for Arizona Trails committee would like to provide scholarships to students and young professionals to participate in the Summit to foster the next generation of outdoor recreation professionals. **Summit for Arizona Trails will be held at:**

**Cottonwood Community Club House**

Fri, February 21, 12pm - Sat. February 22, 1pm

Who should submit an application for the Scholarship?

- High School Students, College Students, Young Professionals, Conservation Corps members, Trail maintenance and land conservation volunteers under the age of 30 and Representatives of underserved or marginalized populations

What does the scholarship provide & deadlines?

- A stipend to help cover the costs of travel in the amount of \$125
- A Registration Fee Waiver in the amount of \$25
- Submit your application by midnight, 2/5/2020
- All applicants will be notified no later than 2/7/2020

To apply visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfesYWmFd\\_SvpfNjEu8rwNZDyLHzAXYGmIk7EohENGTYYsHow/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfesYWmFd_SvpfNjEu8rwNZDyLHzAXYGmIk7EohENGTYYsHow/viewform)

## 2020 Lake Powell Trash Trackers!

Participants in the program are members of the NPS Volunteer-In-Parks (VIP) Program and spend 5 or 7 days aboard a houseboat that has been donated by Aramark. Volunteers for the Trash Tracker program clean up trash along the shoreline. The Trash Tracker's destination changes on each trip. Applications for this season will not be accepted until **February 1, 2020**. To apply visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/getinvolved/trashtracker.htm>.

## TRACKS CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

By Lynn Krigbaum

We have been enjoying the excellent snow. We skied Avenue of the Giants about 10 times, Slade Ranch and Hall Creek and East Lane and are looking forward to many more fun times. We will ski after the TRACKS General Meeting and plan to get as much exercise as possible in the next few weeks. Email [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) if you want to be included in the cross country ski list.

*Remember to dress appropriately for the weather, bring a hat, sunscreen, water and a snack if desired.*

### Walk for the Woods – Planning Committee Meeting

On Saturday, January 25th at 7:30AM we will meet at Darbi's for the organizational meeting of the committee for the 13th Annual Walk for the Woods. This is a way TRACKS has celebrated National Trails Day and raises money for Save Our Park and the White Mountain Nature Center. It will be the first Saturday of June - the 6th this year. We certainly would love to see some new faces at this meeting!!! Hope to see YOU there! Email Lynn at [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) for more information.

## White Mountain Happenings

### JANUARY

24th White Mountain Eagle Workshop -- Lakeside

### FEBRUARY

8<sup>th</sup> White Mountain Chili Cookoff – Lakeside

9<sup>th</sup> Oscar Viewing Party – Lakeside

15<sup>th</sup> Native Flute Circle – Show Low

### MARCH

12<sup>th</sup> Show Low Writers Group – Show Low

For more information on the above events and other events that are happening in the White Mountains, please visit the respective website and/or Visitor Center for more information:

**Show Low Chamber of Commerce:**

[www.showlowchamber.com/](http://www.showlowchamber.com/).

**Pinetop/Lakeside Chamber of Commerce:**

<https://www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com/calendar/>

**Snowflake/Taylor Chamber of Commerce:**

<https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>

**Sunrise Ski Resort:**

<https://www.sunrisepark.com/>

## UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Kay Alderton

Up The Hill Gangs' hikes so far this winter have been limited by winter season with the first hike of the year being to Lyman Lake. There were ten hikers, the weather was warm and the water on Lyman Lake was like glass it was so calm all morning. Those who are wondering if and when a hike will happen can call Kay Alderton by Monday prior to a Wednesday. Kay's number is 928 367 7003. Leave your number if Kay is not available and Kay will return your call.

*Remember to dress appropriately for the weather, bring a hat, sunscreen, water and a snack if desired. For longer hikes, it will be noted if you should plan on bringing a lunch and/or go out to lunch.*

## ONCE A YEAR -- call for donations to TRACKS

Please consider a financial donation to TRACKS. It's a worthwhile cause – promoting healthy outdoor activity in the forest. Your financial help enables TRACKS to purchase tools, signs, etc. for White Mountains Trail System maintenance and helps pay for other expenses of the organization. TRACKS does not have a membership fee and counts on donations. We are a non-profit, 501c3 volunteer organization so donations are tax deductible. There are several ways to contribute!

- You can use PayPal on the TRACKS website at <https://www.trackswhitmountains.org/>
- Make TRACKS a beneficiary of an estate, please contact TRACKS Treasurer, David McCullough, at: <mailto:drmccull67@gmail.com>.
- Mail a check to the **TRACKS Treasurer, 958 S Woodland Road, Lakeside AZ 85929**. Enjoy the trails and sincere thanks in advance for your continued support.

### JOIN and DONATE to TRACKS!

If you would like more information on joining TRACKS, would like to Subscribe, or Donate, please visit our website at: [www.trackswhitmountain.org](http://www.trackswhitmountain.org).

Members and non-members can also donate through AMAZON Smile by adding TRACKS as a charity in their AMAZON account.

## Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

After the retirement of Ed Collins 2019, Randi Paris accepted the detail as acting District Ranger on the Lakeside Ranger District. Randi comes to us from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Trinity River – South Fork Management Units, where she is program lead for the Silviculture and Timber programs. Randi has great experience building partnerships in getting work done. Randi also served as acting Deputy District Ranger on the very busy recreation program at the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Randi is excited for this opportunity to be acting Ranger, and has connections in her past work history in Region 3, as well as family in Arizona. Randi started November 11, 2019, which is terrific for the A-S... welcome Randi!

In addition to managing natural fires, the USDA Forest Service also schedules and monitors prescribed fire to effectively manage forest health and reduce the risk of destructive fire. Historically, frequent low intensity natural fires started by lightning were normal for this forest. The White Mountains were so named not just for the snow in the winter, but for the smoke in the summer and fall that made the mountains look white from a distance. The combination of snowy and smoky seasons resulted in the mountains appearing white almost year-round.

The frequent fire ecology resulted in greater plant, tree and wildlife diversity; more low intensity, frequent fire instead of high intensity fire; lower tree density; larger trees and less insect pests and disease. Today the Forest Service is managing with fire to improve forest health and restore a diverse and sustainable forest, which also reduces the risk of high intensity fire for our local communities. For more information and to see if there are any changes, please visit the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>.

Cold Mountain storms can mean fun in the snow! To stay safe, good fun means good planning:

- Travel with a companion if possible.
- Let someone know where you'll be and when you'll return.
- Dress for success! Warm and waterproof with lots of layers.
- Wear sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses.
- Carry and drink plenty of water and bring food.
- Rest often and don't over-exert.

- Bring a first aid kit and emergency supplies.
- Be weather-wise.
- Be aware of road conditions and whether 4-wheel drive or chains are required.

*NOTE: Most forest roads are primitive roads that are not plowed or maintained in the winter. Please avoid rutting and damaging wet roads and respect road closures. Visit our website for more information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>.*

## Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jamie Van Kirk

Join the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the 2020 Eagle Fest at the White Mountain Nature Center. Located at 425 S. Woodland Ln, Lakeside (928) 368-6203.

Friday, January 24th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm will be an adult oriented program. Including photos and video presentations, possible eagle cam footage and an informal discussion with biologist and nest watchers.

Saturday, January 25th from 9:00am - 3:00pm will be a variety. There is a free kids program, featuring live eagles and activities. Presentations by Arizona biologists. Eagle fest will include a field trip to Lazy Oaks Resort in Lakeside for eagle watching. Please check the Arizona Game and Fish Pinetop Region facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/azgfd/> or for more information or call (928) 367-4281.

A \$10 suggested donation per family will be given to White Mountain Nature Center and Liberty Wildlife.

For more information about news and events, visit the AZFG website at: <https://www.azgfd.com/>

## WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE RESERVATION FIRE MANAGEMENT NEWS

The mission of the BIA and Tribal wildfire management program is to reduce the incidents of unwanted and useless human caused wildfires on the Fort Apache Indian Reservations and to provide leadership, training and guidance to develop strategies to reduce the number of human caused wildfires.

Current fire prevention, prescribed burns and other relevant information for the White Mountain Apache tribe can be found by visiting the WMA Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/> or by contacting Candy Lupe at (928) 338-5425.

**TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – January through March 2020**

Legend for calendar is as follows. **Blue** – Trail Crew (TC), **Green** - Up the Hill Gang (UTHG), **Purple** – Biking (Summer) and Cross Country Skiing (Winter), and **Red** – TRACKS meetings and events.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
<b>Mondays -- on hold until spring</b>	<b>Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails</b>	<b>To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and or email Nick Lund at: <a href="mailto:lundaz@cableone.net">lundaz@cableone.net</a>. See page one of newsletter for more information about trail crew news.</b>
<b>Monday through Friday (weather permitting)</b>  <i>Days and times will vary due to leader availability and weather conditions.</i>	<b>Cross Country Skiing (winter only):</b>	<b>Cross Country Skiing (winter only) will be notified via email by Sunday of each week of the days and details for planned skiing. Please visit the website and check “Skiing” on the “Join” form and or contact Lynn Krigbaum at <a href="mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com">gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com</a> to get on the notification list.</b>
<b>Wednesdays 9am (weather permitting)</b>	<b>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:</b>	<b>Contact Kay Alderman (928) 367-7003. See page two for additional information.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays of Month - 8am</b> Exception: June meets on National Trails Day	<b>TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)</b>	<b>Darbi’s in Pinetop (October - May) Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2 (June – September)</b>
<b>Thursdays Before 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Month 1pm</b> Exception: June meets the Thursday before National Trails Day	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)</b>	<b>Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside</b>



958 S. Woodland Road  
Lakeside, AZ 85929  
[www.trackswitemountains.org](http://www.trackswitemountains.org)