



### TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

*By Jerry Good*

This year we are doing work that last year we would not have attempted. Two successful work projects, are the game and fish trail and the blue ridge trail. Both we're projects that required a lot of work. We received a letter of thanks for the restoration work completed on the game and fish trail. The trail crew made themselves PROUD.

Other special thanks and kudos go out to: Denny Humpries for his work replacing the wooden planks on the Land of the Pioneers Trail, excellent job. Dave McCullough for his work replacing the wooden planks on the turkey track trail -- another excellent job. Ron Miller and Jon Peabody for fixing the vandalized sign on the blue ridge trail and game and fish trail. Excellent job. Extra special kudos to Kathryn Milsted. She is the one who provides the cold drinks for the trail crew every Monday after we complete all the hard and hot work!

We work every Monday. Join us if you would like to help and work with a really special group. To volunteer please check box on website for "Trail Crew" on "Join" form and/or email Jerry Good at: [jgood6@cox.net](mailto:jgood6@cox.net). 🇺🇸

### WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

The WMNC reopened in June and the current hours are Monday-Wednesday-Friday; from 10 am to 2 pm. Please note that due to COVID-19 we have cancelled all of our Discovery Learning Camps for 2020 and hope to reintroduce them next year.

Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, or to get our latest news, call (928) 358-3069, visit our website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/> or Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>

Current events are listed below -- visit our website to confirm event(s) are still being held and for complete information:

**August**  
8 10:00am Reptiles of All Shapes and Sizes 🇺🇸

### SPOTLIGHT – White Mountain Nature Center “Happy Trails to You” Annual Benefit Dinner

*By Kathy Dahnk*

This year has been a real scary challenge for all of us. Not knowing how this virus was going to work its deadly magic on each of us. We were confined to our homes, businesses were closed and our beautiful little town was shuttered.

We didn't want to go to our businesses and FRIENDS, asking for gift donations for our annual auction, but we needed to raise funds to keep our doors open. So we just didn't try to think outside the box, we threw that darn box away!

So we are inviting you to the White Mountain Nature Center for “Happy Trails To You” Annual Benefit Dinner. **Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 4:30 PM**, and tickets are **LIMITED!**

We are having good food, dancing, and a great BBQ meal. We will have our famous Dessert Auction, and a table with a few items people will STILL donate to us for a silent auction. We will have a cash bar and some silly games for all to play. But we really will be asking you to dig deep and give what you can in the way of a donation to the Nature Center.

Ticket prices will be lower...\$30 per person, and dress will be totally informal...Western wear will suit the theme beautifully. So wear your favorite Pendleton, put on your dancing boots and come join the fun.

Check in at the Nature Center to buy your tickets or you can purchase them online at our website: [www.wmnature.org](http://www.wmnature.org). See you there! 🇺🇸



TRACKS members cleaning up our new mile section on Hwy260 between markers 347 to 348 in late July.

## TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bikers enjoy rides usually 3x/week, primarily on forest service roads with some single track added. Many rides have a longer and shorter options.

Riders should wear masks in the parking area and maintain social distance during the rides. TRACKS rides are non-competitive, social rides at a moderate pace, with stops at major turns for re-grouping. To get TRACKS biking information please check box on the website for "Biking" on "Join" form and/or email Nick Lund at [lundaz@cableone.net](mailto:lundaz@cableone.net).

Other biking opportunities in the White Mountain Community are Pinetop Bike Shop which has a weekly evening ride, and Cycle Mania in Show Low which has a more challenging ride. Visit Pinetop Bike Shop at <https://www.pinetopbikeshop.com/> and Cycle Mania at <https://www.cyclemaniaaz.com/> for more information.

Biking -- what a wonderful way to enjoy the forest and to see wildlife occasionally. 🐾

**TRACKS VOLUNTEERS:** Please send your volunteer hours for 2020 to Nick at [lundaz@cableone.net](mailto:lundaz@cableone.net) or call 928-241-2444. ALL volunteering you do, for TRACKS or any other organization. Estimate the hours if you have not kept a record of them, and include your travel time in the hours. This information is collated for the TRACKS annual report, so please take time to respond. We only ask for the hours twice a year. 🐾

## UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Jim Meeker

TRACKS is still not hosting any hiking groups because of COVID-19 but is encouraging small groups of family, friends and neighbors to plan outdoor hikes that will allow everyone to easily maintain the social distancing guidelines given us by medical professionals while we enjoy the out of doors.

Let's talk some more about favorite trails – and a favorite of many is the Thompson Trail No. 629, which follows along the West Fork of the Black River. It's a cool and beautiful respite away from the daily hustle of our lives. There are lots of months of the year when the Thompson Trail would be a great hike, but my favorite season is during the summer monsoons, when some rainfall causes the wildflowers to explode.

The Thompson Trail is open to only hikers, but on the hillside just above the trail is a piece of the many railroad grades that are part of the White Mountain's logging history. The railroad grade, which parallels the trail, is suitable for bicycles and as an alternative for your return hike.

There is a map and description of the trail available on the U.S. Forest Service website for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. To access the trailhead, take the Sunrise Road (Highway 273) south, and turn right onto Forest Road 116, traveling about 3.5 miles from the turnoff.

Happy hiking! 🐾

## White Mountain Happenings – August 2020

- 8th Reptiles of All Shapes and Sizes – WM Nature Center
- 8<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> High Country Hummingbird Festival – Arizona Game and Fish Facebook (VIRTUAL livestream on FACEBOOK only)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> WMAS Birding Field Trip Location TBA – White Mountain Audubon Society (Call Rob Bettaso for more information and to RSVP at (928) 368-8481)

Due to current changing COVID-19 circumstances, events may be cancelled and/or delayed. Please call or contact the respective organization or town websites to confirm that events are still being held in August as scheduled.

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:

**Pinetop/Lakeside** Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com/calendar/>

**Show Low** Chamber of Commerce: [www.showlowchamber.com/](http://www.showlowchamber.com/).

**Snowflake/Taylor** Chamber of Commerce: <https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>

**White Mountain Audubon Society:** <http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/>

**Arizona Game and Fish:** [Facebook.com/AZGFDPinetop/](https://www.facebook.com/AZGFDPinetop/)

**Sunrise Ski Resort:** <https://www.sunriseskipark.com/> 🐾

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

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

COVID-19 policies and protocols are still in place for the Forest and there are no changes to report. The fire ban is still also in place and prohibits fire and charcoal, however propane/gas stoves and devices are allowed.

The big news for Lakeside is that we have a new Recreation Staff, Tony Papa. Tony Papa comes to us from the Inyo National Forest where he was the rec staff officer over the Mount Whitney and White Mountain Ranger Districts. He brings a wealth of experience in recreation working on various forests in R5 and R3 including the Coconino, Prescott and Santa Fe National Forests. He enjoys hiking, mountain biking, skiing, camping/backpacking, riding motorcycles/dirt bikes and spending time with his wife, daughter and 2-year-old twin boys. We are excited to have him on board.

Trail news: Lakeside is awaiting clearance for the Four Springs realignment proposal and are hopeful we will be able to move forward soon. We are also working with TRACKS to correct issues on the Blue Ridge Trail and Chipmunk Springs Connector.

The forest is experiencing higher than normal use and visitation, which is resulting in significant impacts from trash and waste. Please follow Leave No Trace principles.

The monsoon has been delayed, which is resulting in delayed fuelwood permits. At this time, the earliest fuelwood permits will be available is July 20<sup>th</sup>, however that date is not definite and depends upon weather conditions. Though the District Office is still closed to the public due to COVID-19, permits will be available to request over the phone and sent through the mail.

Thank you to TRACKS for working with us to navigate these unusual times. 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>. ❗

**Once a year we ask for donations** to help support our trail system work. TRACKS is a non-profit, 501.C.3 organization so your contributions are tax deductible. You can use PayPal on the TRACKS website or send a check to TRACKS at 958 S Woodland Rd, Lakeside AZ 85929. Your donations help cover the costs of trail tools, trail signs, and other organizational expenses. Thank you for being a TRACKS member and supporting one of the best trail systems in AZ!

## Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jackie Follmuth

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is hosting its 17th annual High Country Hummingbird Festival **virtually** on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 8 a.m. The event will be livestreamed on the AZGFD Pinetop Regional Facebook page at [Facebook.com/AZGFDpinetop/](https://www.facebook.com/AZGFDpinetop/).

Each year, hummingbird bandings are performed by Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory (SABO) to study migration and population numbers of hummingbirds in the Sipe Wildlife Area. This year's hummingbird banding may be attended **virtually via AZGFD's Pinetop Regional Facebook page**. A Q&A session with hummingbird banders Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood will follow the hummingbird banding broadcast.

The Sipe Wildlife Area Visitor Center is currently closed, but visitors may still picnic and hike in the area. For more information on recreating safely and responsibly outdoors, review all applicable guidance from AZDHS and the CDC. The hummingbird banding will not be open to public viewing on the day of the event. Questions for the hummingbird banders will be solicited from the public via Facebook posts or may be emailed to Jackie Follmuth, Public Affairs Community Liaison at [jfollmuth@azgfd.gov](mailto:jfollmuth@azgfd.gov).

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

### RENEW YOUR TRACKS MEMBERSHIP!

Annually, TRACKS asks members to confirm their membership in order to keep our database current. So, unless you joined TRACKS in 2020 in which case you do not need to do anything, please send Nick any changes to your email, papermail, phone number, and/or the TRACKS email lists you want to be on. Let us know if you do not wish to continue as a member. **NOTE: if your name is not apparent from your email, please send your name when you respond.**

Get this information to Nick ([lundaz@cablone.net](mailto:lundaz@cablone.net) or 928-241-2444) by October 10; after that date you will be deleted from TRACKS membership.

## TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – August

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Mondays Trail Crew work has been reinstated and emails are sent each week for volunteers.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Jerry Good at: <a href="mailto:jgood6@cox.net">jgood6@cox.net</a> . See page one of newsletter for more information about trail crew news.
Monday through Friday – has resumed and emails are being sent accordingly. <i>Days and times will vary due to leader availability and weather conditions.</i>	Biking:	To get biking information please check box on the website for “Biking” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at <a href="mailto:lundaz@cableone.net">lundaz@cableone.net</a> . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
No official hiking is being scheduled for August due to COVID-19.	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:	To get UTHG information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at <a href="mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us">jmeeker@azsunshine.us</a> .  See page two for specific hiking schedule information.
Saturday, August 8 – 8am	TRACKS General Meeting	Amphitheater at Pinetop Lakes Activity Center and Stables (PLACS). TRACKS will provide coffee. Bring your own food and utensils. Members can sit at a social distance, but still get together and catch up with friends!
Thursday, August 6 -- 1pm	TRACKS Board Meeting	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside

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**TRACKS needs help!** If you can help with the trail maps on our website, including gpx files, please let Nick Lund know at [lundaz@cableone.net](mailto:lundaz@cableone.net) or 928-241-2444. TRACKS is working with the US Forest Service on some projects that will modify existing trails, so we need someone with expertise in mapping.



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

**TRACKS still has 100% cotton t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps for sale with our great TRACKS design!**  
T-SHIRTS: Long sleeve in light blue or light gray and short sleeve in teal or charcoal gray. Sizes large, xlarge and xxlarge only. Dark brown sweatshirts with zippers and pockets in many sizes. Caps are available too! **Call Arlene 928 368-6810 or 928 242-4629.**  
T-shirts: Long Sleeve \$20 and Short Sleeve \$15  
Sweatshirts \$40 and Caps \$20