



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) – How the Osprey Trail Got Its Name

By Nick Lund

TRACKS calls our trails the White Mountains Trail System, since we link major loop trails with connector trails to form a system that enables users to go on short or long excursions. Years ago, we proposed to the USFS a connector trail between Timber Mesa and Ice Cave trails. As part of the required National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review, a small group of us went with a Forest Service ranger to conduct the environmental impact study. We were looking for native American artifacts to make certain no protected sites would be impacted by the new trail. We stopped about 1/2 mile above Scott's Reservoir to discuss trail alignment, when about a 8 inch live trout dropped from the sky and landed about 6 feet from us. In amazement we looked around wondering how this could happen and finally one of us looked up to see an Osprey circling above. I said to clear the area and the bird would likely retrieve its prey. As we did, the ranger said that she had worked with the FS over 15 years and had never had an experience like this. In addition, she said that each month the FS had a meeting which included an accident report. So, she was going to call our event a "near miss" and that the 3 of us were witnesses that she was not out smoking something funny in the forest. Then we started talking about what to name the new trail. A suggestion was to call it the "falling fish" trail. I said definitely not, since our mountain bikers and equestrians do not like the word falling. Finally someone very appropriately suggested the Osprey Trail. Now you know at least one way trails get named. 🐾

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

The WMNC's centers current hours are Monday-Wednesday-Friday; from 10 am to 2 pm. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, or to get our latest news, call (928) 358-3069, or visit our website at:

<https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/>

or Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>

Current events are listed below – call or visit our website to confirm event(s) are still being held and for complete information: **September Events:**

- 12th Nature Center Benefit Dinner at Nature Center
- 19th STEM Saturday at 10:00am

SPOTLIGHT – Pinetop-Lakeside Owns First Part of Woodland Lake Park

By Lynn Krigbaum

After many years of working to raise awareness and money to acquire part of Woodland Lake Park we finally had papers signed by Mayor Stephanie Irwin to transfer ownership of 107+ acres from the Forest Service. Save Our Park has been grateful to TRACKS members for the past 13 years of support for the fund raiser, Walk for the Woods. The volunteers have been vital, leading the hikes, walks, Nature "strolls and bike rides" which made possible the hiring of the fund-raising group that led to the securing of the \$1,635,000.

Continued interest in the park has resulted in this day when we can all celebrate the protection of the park land that we all cherish. Save Our Park is planning to continue efforts to acquire more open space to keep the park a PARK. The next acquisition target is the Walnut Creek Riparian area which contains one of the most beautiful trails in our White Mountains.

We hope TRACKS members will continue to support Save Our Park as we move forward. Thanks for all of your help and donations and we expect continued success. Stay tuned for the next news! 🐾

FREE E-Waste and Tire Recycling Event! -- SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020 Pinetop/Lakeside and Show Low

BRING YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS TO RECYCLE!

Computers | Laptops | Servers | Mouse | Keyboards | Cables | Cords Printers | Fax Machines | DVD & VCR Players | Stereos | Speakers | Phones Microwaves | Toasters | Charger | Video Game Consoles | Controllers Televisions and Monitors -limit 1 per household free, additional pieces \$10 ea. TIRES --All sizes accepted. Must be dismounted -NO RIMS!

PINETOP LAKESIDE 9am – 12pm, Collection Center, 1000 S. Woodland Road, Lakeside, AZ 85929, Phone 928-368-8884, or visit: pinetoplakesideaz.gov

SHOW LOW 8am – 11am, Collection Center, 251 N Penrod Road, Show Low, AZ 85901, Phone 602-944-4151

This event is free for residential drop off only! Regular rates will apply for all commercial drop offs. 🐾

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

Several of TRACKS members asked about getting custom jerseys for biking and TRACKS was able to coordinate to have custom jerseys available.

If you want to order a TRACKS jersey, check the link below to see the design. You must place your own order. Peggy has samples in most sizes that you can try on. She will bring them to the mountain bike rides or you can call her 928-532-0405 until August 15, when the samples must be returned to Primal Wear. There is a limited time to order, September 7, so please act promptly. We got a special price, since TRACKS was recommended by Epic Rides. Our Team Store is live and ready for ordering. To access the store, use this link:

<https://via.primalcustom.com/collections/t06446a>

The store is not password protected, so anyone with the link will be able to access the products and order.

Users do not need to create or save an account if they prefer to check out as a guest, but there is an option to create an account to be able to review their account history, and save contact information for future orders.

For any Team Store questions or ordering assistance, there is a 'Help' category with FAQ information, phone#, and LiveChat on the order page. !

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Jim Meeker

A lot of people are feeling stress these days. We worry about school for our children and grandchildren. We see all those nasty political ads on TV. But there is a solution – grab your family or a close friend and go for a hike. And may we suggest a place that the Forest Service describes as some of the most striking views in the White Mountains? We are talking about the Thompson Trail, which follows the West Fork of the Black River.

The Thompson trail, No. 629, is a favorite of many long-time hikers. Because it's along the river, there are wildflowers in every season. You can look from the trail up to the ridges and see lots of forest – Ponderosa Pines and Douglas Firs at the higher reaches.

It is an easy place to get to – Take the Sunrise road about 14 miles, and then turn right onto F.R. 116. These roads are good for all cars. The trail begins across the road from the parking area, and for a short distance follows an old railroad grade. Then you see the trail heading down along the water, but the trail stays on one side of the river, so you won't need to get your feet wet. For variety on the return hike, you can go partway up the ridge and follow the railroad grade all the way back to the trailhead, making it a loop trail. !

White Mountain Happenings

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 September as scheduled.

SEPTEMBER

- 5th Taylor Sweet Corn Festival at Taylor Rodeo Arena - Taylor
- 12th WN Nature Center Annual Benefit Dinner – White Mountain Nature Center - Lakeside
- 25th – 27th 44th Annual Fall Festival Arts and Crafts Show – Charlie Clarks Orchard and throughout Pinetop/Lakeside

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/.

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

We are pleased to introduce Lakeside's District Ranger, Josh Miller. Josh came to Lakeside in March as the Acting District Ranger and then accepted the permanent position in June.

Ranger Miller is looking forward to working with TRACKS to support both non-motorized and motorized trails on the District and would like to introduce himself with his background:

"I started my career in the forest service in 2003 at the Alpine ranger district on a wild land fire engine. Since then I have worked on the Tonto NF, Kaibab NF and the Grand Canyon National Park before returning back to my home here on the A/S as the Forest Fuels Specialist since June of 2017 and most recently accepting the District Ranger position here at the Lakeside Ranger District in March of this year. I have a 6 year old daughter and her and I love spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. One of her and I's favorite past times is going camping and riding ATV's and UTV's. I am very happy and feel privileged to be back where I call home here on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs and look forward to the many more years to come."

For more information please visit the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest website at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>.



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 Jackie Follmuth

AZGFD reminds people to leave baby wildlife alone. Fawns may be especially noticeable this time of year. If a baby animal is alone, it doesn't mean it has been abandoned. Frequently, a mother will hide their young while they go looking for food. If a human removes a baby animal from the wild with good intentions, it often eliminates the potential for reunification with their mother and can often lead to the animal's death. Additionally, many baby animals cannot be released back into the wild and must be euthanized due to disease concerns. Zoos and other wildlife sanctuaries have limited space and cannot always aid these animals.

Many outdoor recreation areas have seen an increase in visitors this spring and summer. These areas have also seen an increase in littering with these extra crowds. Trash has a negative impact on our recreation areas varying from habitat damage to harming wildlife. AZGFD law enforcement officers are still patrolling and will issue citations for littering when appropriate. Please remember to dispose of your trash responsibly and remind other members of your party to do the same.

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/>. ❗

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE NEWS

Due to continued COVID-19 cases, the RESERVATION is still closed to all RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR NON-TRIBAL MEMBERS. We DO NOT have a projected opening date at this time.

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 – September

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: jgood6@cox.net . See page one of newsletter for more information about trail crew news.
Usually Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – 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 lundaz@cableone.net . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
No official hiking is being scheduled for September 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 jmeeker@azsunshine.us . See page two for specific hiking schedule information.
September 10 -- 1pm	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
September 12 -- 8am	TRACKS General Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	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!

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958 S. Woodland Road
Lakeside, AZ 85929
www.trackswhitmountains.org

TRACKS still has 100% cotton t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps for sale with our great TRACKS design!
T-SHRITS: 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 928 242-4639.