



TRACKS TRAIL CREW

By Jerry Good

The forest is back open and the Trail Crew has been back to work! The Trail Crew worked mostly in the Country Club Trailhead area the mid to late parts of July. The Los Burros trail was worked a couple of weeks and then the 4 Springs trailhead had some work done. We had some good rains, but were still able to get out and get work done! Work always depends on conditions; we hope for more rain and will work whenever possible! ❄️

White Mountain Happenings

AUGUST

- Thursdays: Thursday Night at the Park – Pioneer Park Snowflake
- Saturdays: Show Low Mainstreet Farmers Market and Art Walk – Show Low (623) 340-4131
- Saturdays: White Mountain Market – Lakeside <https://www.whitemountainsmarket.com/>
- 3rd National Night Out Pinetop-Lakeside (928) 368-8800
- 7th Eagle Watch WMAS – Pinetop-Lakeside (480) 235 1792
- 7th Ndee ta ade, Gathering of People – Fort Apache (928) 338-3849
- 21st WM Women’s Club 37th Fashion Show Show Low (602) 999-3090
- 27th Birding in the White Mountains WMAS Pinetop-Lakeside (480) 235- 1792

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/>
- Pinetop/Lakeside Visitor:** <https://www.visitpinetoplakeside.com/>
- Show Low Chamber of Commerce:** www.showlowchamber.com/
- Snowflake/Taylor Chamber of Commerce:** <https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>
- White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS):** <http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/>
- Sunrise Ski Resort:** <https://www.sunriseskipark.com/> ❄️

SPOTLIGHT – TRACKS Memorial Arboretum – One Step Closer to Completion

By Cathy Purvis

Last November, a small but hard-working group of TRACKS members planted six native trees on the property of the White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) as our way to memorialize and honor the early visionaries, inspirational and dedicated TRACKS and WMNC members who have passed in the last few years.

A Zia Sun Symbol was also built around the Pinyon Pines to represent the four seasons of the year, the four directions and the four seasons of life. Recently, two Aspens were added to the Arboretum by the family of Ron and Cathy Major.

The trees in the Memorial Arboretum will eventually have signage identifying the various species planted there.

On July 1st, our long-awaited White Mountain Nature Center and TRACKS Memorial Arboretum Kiosk was installed. Our thanks to Steve Dobbs and Kelly Milligan for their beautiful workmanship!

Soon, plaques with the names of those early inspirational leaders will be added to the Kiosk. A special recognition goes to Ron Miller who presented the original idea to both WMNC and TRACKS Boards last year.

We hope TRACKS members go by the WMNC and see the beginning of our Memorial Arboretum, plus we plan to have a celebration at the Arboretum sometime later this year!

For more information on the WMNC, please visit their website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/>. ❄️

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

Biking has resumed! Earlier this year we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by TRACKS member and mountain bike rider, Julie Bradley at the Apache Junction Library about her two books, *Escape From the Ordinary* and *Crossing Pirate Waters*. Eight TRACKS mountain bike riders got together in February for a 20 mile ride in the Gold Canyon area desert east of Phoenix to follow one of the routes in Julie's books and it was a great ride!

TWM SAVE THE DATE

By Nate Kear

For the 25th annual Tour of the White Mountains bike ride. 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 a 30-mile forest road ride. TRACKS volunteers help pin flag the routes during the week before the event and, during the event, help with packet pickup/registration, 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.

Epic makes a nice donation to TRACKS to help with our efforts on the WMTS and at the event. For those who respond right away, you can let us know if you want the same location as last event or tell us what you would like to do during the event. Please volunteer no later than Friday, Sept 10.

IMPORTANT: Please send your response to Nate Kear at natekear@gmail.com. 📧

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

(WMNC) -- The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am – 12pm each week. The WMNC holds special programs throughout the summer to provide family-oriented fun with a discovery focus on increasing awareness, understanding and responsible action towards nature. The August schedule is (please contact the WMNC to confirm events):

- 7th Forest Ecology Walk – 8:30am
- 14th Blood and Scales – 10am
- 21st Star Lab – 10am
- 28th Go Fly a Kite – 10am

The WMNC is a non-profit organization and donations are also gratefully accepted. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our center and programs and for board members! Please contact us if you are interested at: (928) 358-3069. For more information, please visit our website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/> or Facebook page at:

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

📧

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Susan High

I'm sure everyone was happy to learn that the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest opened on July 7! Hopefully the few thunderstorms that arrived were enough to help heal the forest a bit--and hopefully we'll get more rain! In the meantime, as you are out enjoying our beautiful mountains, please be vigilant and report any problems or illegal activity you see. At the June 5th Annual Tracks Meeting, Nick handed out some laminated wallet cards with these phone numbers:

Avoid Conflicts:

Forest Service Office, Lakeside - 928-368-2100,
open M-F, 8-4:30. Dispatch 928-333-6360
Navajo County Sheriff - 928-524-4450
Apache County Sheriff - 928-337-4321
Operations Game Thief - 1-800-352-0700

Thank you, Christine, for making the cards! I have personally heard a handful of stories this year of watchful hikers who reported illegal activity, including campfires and the illegal taking of game.

August Hiking Schedule

- Aug. 4, Baldy Crossover Trail
Rating 2.5; miles approx. 5; (rideshare \$5)
- Aug. 11, Indian Springs
Rating 2.5; miles approx. .5; (rideshare \$5)
- Aug. 18, West Baldy
Rating 2.5, miles approx. .5; (rideshare \$5)
- Aug. 25, Four Springs to Lake Mountain Lookout
Rating 3; miles approx. 4.5, (rideshare \$5)

More information about hikes, including maps, can be found at:

<https://trackswitemountains.org/trails/>.

*Please remember that the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest remains in Stage II fire restrictions. In a nutshell, that means NO fires of any kind, including smoking, and no operation of any equipment that may generate sparks. For details see: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/asnf/alerts-notices/?aid=66402>

Thank you for helping take care of our forest and the animals who live within.

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. 📧

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests has rescinded the full forest closure, effective at 8:00AM, July 7th. Stage II Fire Restrictions will remain in place.

A large portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves has recently received enough rain that, along with cooler temperatures, has reduced the risk of severe fire behavior. The forest closed June 24th, 2021 to reduce the risk to public safety due to extreme fire danger and historically dry conditions.

Drought conditions contribute to fire danger continuing to be very high. The public is reminded to remain vigilant while visiting the National Forest – abide by the restrictions and closures and refrain from any behavior that may accidentally start a wildfire. Stay informed of forest conditions before and during your visit.

Stage II Fire Restrictions

Under Stage II restrictions, fires (including charcoal and briquettes) are prohibited on all National Forest lands. Smoking is also prohibited forest-wide except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of any flammable material.

Stoves or grills that are solely fueled by pressurized liquid petroleum or pressurized liquid petroleum gas (LPG) fuels are allowable. Generators with approved spark arresting devices are also permitted in areas that are barren or cleared of any flammable material at least 3 feet around the generator.

The following acts are prohibited from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Operating a generator, chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine; using an explosive; blasting, welding, or operating any acetylene or other torch with an open flame.

Stay up to date on Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests news by checking the [A-S website](#) and following @A_SNF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Enjoy these interesting comments that have been left on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards!

- 1) “Please avoid building trails that go uphill.”
- 2) “Trails need to be wider, so that people can walk while holding hands.”
- 3) “Coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.” 🐾

Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jackie Follmuth

Do you want to see your photo on the cover of Arizona Wildlife Views magazine? Do you have a knack for capturing great photos of wildlife while out hiking trails in Arizona? Then you won't want to miss the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 15th annual wildlife photo contest!

One best in show and 11 first-place winners will be showcased in the 2022 calendar, which is published in the November-December issue of Arizona Wildlife Views. The best-in-show photo is published on the cover of the issue and as one of the photos representing a month.

We're partnering with Arizona Highways to provide an easier way to submit photographs. Use the online form at www.arizonahighways.com/wildlife-photo-contest to submit your Arizona wildlife photos. Each contestant may submit a maximum of three photographs, which must be uploaded as separate submissions through the form.

Please review the Official Rules prior to entering. Entrants are responsible for complying with the Official Rules or may result in disqualification. The deadline is 5 p.m. (Arizona time) on Aug. 13, 2021.

Winners will be announced online at www.azgfd.gov/photocontest and www.arizonahighways.com after Nov. 1, 2021. To receive your copy of the Arizona Wildlife Views Calendar, subscribe to the Arizona Wildlife Views magazine at <https://www.azgfd.com/Media/Magazine/>. 🐾

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE

RESERVATION NEWS -- WMAT camping and fishing is open to non-tribal members as weather conditions permit. Phase Two reopening plans and other pertinent information can be found at the WMAT website at: <http://whitemountainapache.org/>.

New WMAT Executive Order Stage II Fire Restrictions are in place. Several lakes are still open, visit the website PDF for specific information: <https://ein.az.gov/sites/default/files/WMAT%20Stage%202%20Fire%20Restrictions.pdf>

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 – August

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Mondays – email is sent with information prior to Monday	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for information about trail crew news.
Tuesday through Saturday (weather permitting) <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 nplundaz@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
Wednesdays 6:45am (weather permitting) Aug. 4, Baldy Crossover Trail Aug. 11, Indian Springs Aug. 18, West Baldy Aug. 25, Four Springs to Lake Mountain Lookout	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:	To get UTHG information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at shigh118@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
August 12 -- 1pm	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
August 14 -- 8am	TRACKS General Meeting & Potluck (visitors welcome)	Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2. Potluck – bring a dish to share and your own beverage of choice. Coffee will be provided.

©2021 TRACKS. All Rights Reserved. *Respectfully Submitted by Christine Brady, TRACKS Newsletter Editor.*



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