



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good

The rain has been a blessing; however, one day was lost for our trail crew this past month.

It is muddy out there, and we hope people are not hiking when it is too wet. It sure is hard to hike when you have a couple inches of mud on your shoes!

However, if you get caught out in rain and it is muddy, try to stay on side of trails and on the down side of trail. This wears the Berm down on downhill side and sometimes that helps to get water off the trail.

The last work the trail crew did was outstanding. It was on Los Burros trail; very rutted and very muddy. It was short section near trail head #2. So much nicer now. Go hiking and check it out. Happy hiking. !

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 September schedule is (please contact the WMNC to confirm events):

- 4th Wildlife Festival
- 18th White Mountain Nature Center Round Up Dinner
5:00pm at the White Mountain Nature Center
Tickets \$30

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/>

SPOTLIGHT – Tuesday Trekkers and Woodland Lake Update

By Nick Lund and Jim Snitzer Respectively

Tuesday Trekkers: One of the recent additions that is now available to all TRACKS hikers is an option for shorter hikes.

Jim Meeker and Ann Howard have developed a series of Tuesday hikes that are usually 2-3 miles. In addition to the longer Wednesday hikes, the shorter hike notices go out to all members who are on the Up The Hill Gang email list.

Many members have provided feedback that they like having the option of short and long hikes. The Tuesday hikers call themselves the Tuesday Trekkers. The option of shorter and longer hikes is a definite improvement that is available for all TRACKS members.

Thanks to Jim Meeker and Ann Howard for scheduling the Tuesday hikes and to Kay Alderton and Susan High for scheduling the Wednesday hikes.

If anyone wishes to be added to the Up The Hill Gang email list, please contact Nick at nplundaz@gmail.com.

Woodland Lake: Due to some of the current runoff being contaminated with ash and chemicals from some burned-off areas, Game and Fish plan to wait until 2022 to stock Woodland lake - probably next April. The lake will be stocked with Bass, Channel Catfish and Bluegill. This is a one-time stocking as these species tend to reproduce and maintain their populations. Game and fish will also re-establish their program of regular annual stocking of rainbow trout.

The Town took advantage of the lake being drained to dredge and shape the lake bottom to make it deeper. Prior to the planned stocking, the town will install "Georgia Cubes" - man-made structures that provide a lake bottom habitat for fish. !

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bikers are enjoying each other's company and social, non-competitive rides, primarily on forest service roads due to a very healthy monsoon season. Rides are usually Tue, Thu & Sat mornings. If you would like to join us and/or have questions, send an email to

Nick nplundaz@gmail.com. ❗

TRAILHEAD ADOPTERS NEEDED! TRACKS is looking for Trailhead Adopters for the Los Burros and Juniper Ridge kiosks. Adopters check the kiosks routinely to pick up trash and deliver maps. If interested or you have questions, please contact Joan Patrick, Trailhead Adopter Coordinator, via email at: joanpatrick933@gmail.com or call 928 242 7220. ❗

White Mountain Happenings

SEPTEMBER

- Saturdays: White Mountain Market – Lakeside
<https://www.whitemountainmarket.com/>
- Saturdays: Show Low Mainstreet Farmers Market and Art Walk – Show Low (623) 340-4131
- 4th Battle of the Bands – Show Low
- 4th Labor Day BBQ & Corn Hole Comp. – Taylor-Snowflake
- 18th White Mountain Nature Center Round Up Dinner Pinetop-Lakeside
- 18th Cawtoberfest -- The House – Show Low
Cawtoberfest.com
- 24- 25th Annual Run to the Pines Car Show – Pinetop-Lakeside
- 25th Annual Fall Festival Parade – Pinetop-Lakeside
- 25th Fall Concert White Mountain Symphony Orchestra 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:

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.sunrisepark.com/> ❗

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Susan Hill and Jim Meeker

WEDNESDAYS: The Up The Hill Gang has been hiking regularly even though we have had lots of rain! We have some great September hikes scheduled including our end of the year potluck which will be held on the last Wednesday of the month as is our custom:

- 9/1 Chipmunk Connector
Meet at GDE-6:45 AM
6 Miles (Rating 1.5) Rideshare \$2
- 9/8 West Fork #94
Meet at GDE-6:45 AM
5 Miles (Rating 3) Rideshare \$5
- 9/15 Squirrel Springs
Meet at GDE-6:45 AM
5 Miles (Rating 2.5) Rideshare \$5
- 9/22 Chihuahua Pine Connector
Meet at Arbys In Show Low -6:45 AM
5 Miles (Rating 2) No Rideshare
- 9/29 Woodland Lake Park – End of Season Potluck
Meet at Woodland Lake Ramada #2 -8:45 AM
6 Miles (Rating 1.5) No Rideshare
8:45am
Hike to White Mountain Nature Center
11:00
Potluck – Bring a Dish to Share and
Your Choice of Beverage

NEW – TUESDAY TREKKERS GROUP! A group of hikers looking for hikes rated easy (Rating 1), most of which would be 2.5 to 3 miles is forming, and the hikers have voted to name themselves the ‘Tuesday Trekkers’. All September hikes will meet at 8:00am. The Tuesday Trekkers September Schedule is:

- Sept. 7 – Thompson Trail No. 629
Meet at Hondah along Highway 260
3.5 Miles (Rating 3.5) Rideshare \$5
- Sept. 14 – Los Burros Trail No. 631
Meet at Hondah along Hwy 260
3 Miles (Rating 1) Rideshare \$5
- Sept. 21 – Land of the Giants from the Railroad Grade
Meet at Hondah along Highway 260
3 Miles (Rating 1) Rideshare \$5
- Sept. 28 – Osprey Connector Trail
Meet at Trailhead Porter Mountain Rd
3 Miles (Rating 1) No Rideshare

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please give me a call at 480-734-5750 or 928-532-1915, or call Ann Howard at 623-258-3678. ❗

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

Now that Forest closures and fire restrictions are rescinded, we're back to weekly trail work if it's not raining or flooding! Trail users continue to express their thanks and appreciation for all the hard work you do.

To continue sharing agency wisdom on trail maintenance (the last installment was about drainage features), here are the guidelines from the Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook about safety and personal protective equipment.

“The most important thing in trail work is your personal well-being and safety. Your personal gear, clothing and safety equipment are important. Cut resistant or leather nonskid boots at least 8 inches high offer the best support and ankle protection. They are required by the Forest Service if you are using cutting, chopping or digging tools. Ankle high hiking boots are okay for some trail work. Sneakers or tennis shoes do not give enough support and protection.”

Also required for trail work are long pants (not shorts), long sleeves, gloves, and hardhats. Always bring plenty of water, snacks, sun screen, insect repellent and weather gear. **HAPPY TRAILS!**

Last free Fool Hollow programs of the season!

- Nature Walk on Friday September 3rd at 9:00 AM
- Black Bears Children's program on Saturday September 4th at 4:00 PM
- Fall Colors in the White Mountains – The Phoenix Tree on Saturday at 7:00 PM

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>.

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

Arizona Game and Fish Department has launched our Rim Country Facebook group. We'll be moving away from regional AZGFD pages and moving towards these group experiences moving forward. Stay up to date with what we're up to by joining this group since our page will be retired soon. We'll even be sharing this year's hummingbird banding in the group! We'd love to have you join and stay up to date with all of the adventures happening in our region.

[Follow this link to join](#) and post, comment or share about your favorite trail or outdoor recreation location in Rim Country. After that, we'd love for you to engage in the group whenever you feel like it! Examples of content to share: outdoor photos, fishing tips, favorite hiking trails, wildlife viewing, etc.

While participating in the group you can even earn special membership badges like visual storyteller, conversation starter, rising star, valued responder, and group expert. We'd love to have you become a contributor in our new group!

Join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/arizonaoutdoor-srimcountry>. ❗

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Mondays – email is sent with information prior to Monday	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails Weather Permitting	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 <i>Days and times will vary due to leader availability and weather conditions.</i>	Biking: Weather Permitting	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 September 1 Chipmunk Connector September 8 West Fork September 15 Squirrel Springs September 22 Chihuahua Connector September 29 Woodland Park/Potluck	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking: Weather Permitting See page two for specific hiking schedule information.	To get UTHG WEDNESDAY information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at shigh118@gmail.com .
TUESDAYS TREKKERS 6:45am September 7 Thompson Trail #629 September 14 Los Burros Trail #631 September 21 Land of the Giants September 28 Osprey Connector		To get UTHG TUESDAY TREKKERS information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us .
September 9 th – 1:00pm	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
September 11 th – 8am	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2. Potluck bring a dish to share, coffee will be provided.
September 29 th 8:45am -- Hike to WMNC and Memorial Arboretum 11:00am -- Potluck	TRACKS General Meeting & End of Year Potluck (visitors welcome)	Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2. Potluck at 11:00am – bring a dish to share and your choice of beverage.

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