



TRACKS TRAIL CREW

First, thank you to the hard-working members of the trail crew. Their dedication and hard work last year made for a successful season on the trails. Much was accomplished yet much remains to do. Our final work was on the much-eroded Panorama trail at the end of October. Hopefully by the first Monday in April we will begin work with the General Crook Connector and will move on to the Chihuahua Pine Connector; they are both in need of much work.

At this time, we would like to express our appreciation to all those who provide our snacks after work. MUCH ENJOYED and THANK YOU. The Trail Crew wishes to thank everyone for all they do. With the effort of all it is so much better and easier.

Sincerely, Jerry Good

HELP WANTED

Volunteer(s) to represent TRACKS at 2022 Halloween Trunk or Treat event hosted by the town of Pinetop Lakeside. The town and TRACKS provide the candy so it will only take 4 to 5 hours of your time with an assistant. Kay Alderton is retiring from this position but will help you get started and will donate the car decorations. Contact Kay Alderton at 928 369-7003.

Volunteer to coordinate refreshments and supply beverages for trail crew, schedule volunteers to bring snacks during trail crew season, remind volunteers weekly of their turn, and deliver the snacks and beverages to the crew. Contact Kathryn Melsted at kmelsted@yahoo.com or Nick at nplundaz@gmail.com.

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER



Diana Butler, President of the White Mountain Nature Center announced that the Nature Center has been awarded a grant of \$250,000 from the Arizona Office of Tourism. The grant program was designed to help organizations located in rural communities that depend on tourism.

Although Pinetop-Lakeside as a whole, weathered the worst of the Covid-19 storm, the Nature Center was heavily affected - in 2020 almost all the programs including fund raising were cancelled. The purpose of this grant is to help expand tourism opportunities in our community. For the Nature Center that means a new multi-use complex including an amphitheater with handicapped access and a multi-function stage along with supporting infrastructure to operate a world-class Raptor Flight Show. Construction of the complex to house and train the raptors will begin shortly. Balinda Strosnider and John Glitsos, of Land on Sky Wildlife Experiences will bring raptor shows to the White Mountains. The company that presents the bird shows at Disney World is assisting with staging, and scripting for the shows and is donating their time. Local contractors Dan Brooks Surveying, Zeb Doll of Sheeran Consulting, and David Morris of Western Pine Development are also donating time to the project. The initial structures include a giant netted training enclosure and viewing patio. Daily training sessions will be available FREE to the public. It is hoped that watching training inspires the community and attracts donations essential in feeding and care of the animals and in completing the infrastructure project. Donations to the building fund are being accepted at 222.WMNature.org



SPOTLIGHT

A highlight during our annual end of season hike and potluck in September was a stop at the TRACKS/Nature Center Memorial Arboretum Kiosk. Ron Miller talked about the nine native trees that had been planted, along with the Zia Symbol, and the overall plans for the Arboretum. Fellow hikers Tom and Liz Jernigan, Lynn Krigbaum, Nick Lund, Kathryn Melstead, Joy Miller, Arlene Nelson and John Vuolo each give a short, sometimes emotional and other times humorous speech on the nine inspirational members whose names who are on the kiosk. Other participants also joined in to share their own memories. Members being memorialized:

Bob Pena was a member of TRACKS for about twenty years. He led hikes and worked on trails for that long as well. Bob was also a founding member of White Mountain Audubon and also led birding walks.

Liz Wise was a long time TRACKS Board member and our "trail boss". She worked with the US Forest Service to obtain approval for trail work, kept all the trail tools in her garage, pin-flagged trail work to be done, and oversaw the work.

Dave Maio was one of many amazing members of TRACKS. Meeting him was such an easy thing you would never have known he had a PhD in Astrophysics.

Kathy Major was a special person. She grew in Arkansas with a family who enjoyed living off the land. She could make any wild game taste wonderful! Kathy loved all of what nature could

offer and was a great supporter of our TRACKS organization.

*As a youth **Ron Major** developed an enduring interest in relationships of flora, fauna and the outdoors and worked as a biologist for the National Park Service and then for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Ron was elected to the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council and became a charter member of TRACKS. Ron headed up various activities that were both fun and informative like mushroom forays and his cross-country ski excursions with wolf sightings.*

***John Davis** was one of the most dedicated of TRACKS trail crew. John was an ardent trail supporter and worked hard to make the White Mountains Trail System one of the best in the State*

***Keith Davis**, son of TRACKS member John Davis, was dedicated to ocean ecology and preservation. He ultimately lost his life in a controversial incident on a foreign fishing vessel while he was acting as an observer.*

***Ruth Nelson** was one of the original TRACKS members over 30 years ago. She liked to lead hikes around Woodland Lake Park after the TRACKS general meetings and had wonderful stories about its development. In addition to being a long time TRACKS supporter, Ruth was an avid golfer and skier.*

***Jeri Freeman** always had something good, positive, uplifting and interesting to say. She was part of the trail crew for a long time and continued that work even when she was physically challenged.*



UP THE HILL GANG and TUESDAY TREKKERS

By Susan High

Preparing for a cold weather hike will depend on many factors including weather conditions, your fitness level, and where you are going.

Dress in several layers so you can adjust as conditions change. Be sure clothing next to your skin has wicking qualities to draw moisture away from your body. Merino wool is a great option and is surprisingly soft. Pack or wear a hard outer shell jacket that will repel rain and wind. If you get wet, hypothermia can become a life-threatening emergency.

Wear appropriate footwear to be prepared for snow, ice, mud, and rocky conditions.

Wear a good hat that shades your eyes from the sun so you can see where you are stepping.

Drink water like it's your job. Even in cold weather you can sweat and lose moisture and not realize it. Carry extra water.

Carry sufficient high-carb snacks for energy. Fruits are great, and dried fruit is lighter to carry. There are also many snack bars on the market that are tasty and convenient.

Always tell someone your route and destination and when you expect to return even when hiking in a group.

Consider using an app on your phone that will allow you to plan your route and track your location. There are several apps available that work off satellite when you don't have a cell phone signal. AllTrails, Gaia, and Garmin are some examples. Most apps have a free version but require a monthly subscription for some features such as sending emergency notifications. You can also view and download maps from the TRACKS website at: <https://trackswhitemountains.org/trails/>.

Create a list of all the gear and supplies you might want to take on a hike so you don't have to work from memory every time you hike. You may not always remember the whistle and signaling mirror so include it on your list. Take time to prepare carefully so you stay safe on your next cold-weather hike!

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST LAKESIDE RANGER DISTRICT NEWS

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

For 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 NEWS

By Aaron Hartzell

As the Holidays approach the Department continues to look for opportunities to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities here in the White Mountains. In 2021 the Department worked together with the town of Pinetop-Lakeside to build and install fish habitat for Woodland lake. These habitat structures were added to the lake in the late summer, after monsoon runoffs filled the lake. In addition to getting this habitat installed the Department was able to stock upwards of 4,500 Rainbow Trout into the lake in late October and early November, which should provide for good fishing opportunities throughout the winter. This stocking was made possible due to a new stocking consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, which allows more flexibility in the timing the Department is authorized to stock fish, particularly in the late fall. In addition to Woodland Lake the Department was able to stock additional Rainbow Trout into most of the local lakes including Fool Hollow, Rainbow, and Show Low.

Looking forward; the Department is currently in the process of coordinating with the city of

Show Low to make habitat improvements in Show Low Lake. These aquatic habitat improvements should facilitate a better warm water fishery, as habitat is a missing component in many of these lakes.

In addition to this work on the local lakes, the Department is currently part of the Eastern Arizona Trails Collaborative. This collaborative is working to identify opportunities and prioritize trail work across the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest and beyond. This work involves both motorized and non-motorized trails. If you are interested in providing input into this process, please work with your local TRACKS leaders or contact your local Forest Service Ranger District office for more information.

If anyone is interested in more Game and Fish news you can find more information on our website at azgfd.com. You can also follow us on Facebook on our new Facebook Group “Arizona Outdoors - Rim Country”. Finally, you can always call our Pinetop office or stop by for additional local information.

Supporting TRACKS

By Nick Lund

TRACKS is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that relies on member donations to help fund trail work, tools, signs, and other organizational expenses, like insurance. We encourage members to donate to TRACKS. Donations may be made by mailing a check made out to TRACKS, Inc. at: 958 N Woodland Road, Lakeside AZ 85929, by giving a check to a Board member at a general meeting, or by using PayPal on www.trackswhitemountains.org.

You can also make a gift directly from an IRA account if you are age 70½ or older, that could fulfill your required minimum distribution (RMD) and avoid income tax on those funds. If you choose this option, contact Nick Lund, TRACKS President or David McCullough, TRACKS Treasurer drmccull67@gmail.com for TRACKS bank routing and account numbers. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help continue the White Mountains Trail System, one of the premier trail systems in AZ.



WHITE MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS

January

1st – 2nd Magic on the Mountain Heroes
Christmas Tribute Show with largest
synchronized light show in the White Mountains
6:00 to 9:00pm

15th – 17th Night skiing at Sunrise Park Resort
4:00 pm

24th Winter Storytelling by Apache Elders at Ft
Apache Cultural Center and Museum Free and
open to the public 928 338-3849

February

29th – 21st Night skiing at Sunrise Park Resort
4:00 pm

March

No events to list at this time

TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE

TRACKS group mountain biking and hiking
have been suspended for the winter months and
will resume in the spring.

Cross Country Skiing Lynn Krigbaum maintains
a list of interested skiers who are notified when
skiing begins. To get on the list email Lynn at
gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com or go to the
TRACKS website
www.trackswitemountains.org.

Board Meetings

- January 6
- February 10
- March 10

General Meetings

- January 8
- February 12
- March 12