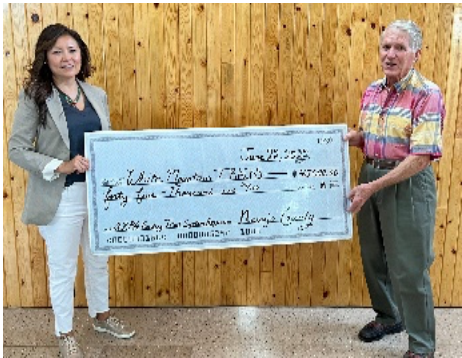


**TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)**

*By Cathy Purvis*



This past June, Nick Lund accepted for TRACKS a \$45,000 check from Navajo County Supervisor Dawnafe Whitesinger, which is part of

the Arizona Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This grant money will enable TRACKS to build a shortcut route on the Blue Ridge Trail. The Blue Ridge is a major loop, approximately 9.4 miles long, and is in a steep rocky area. Thus, the proposed route will require considerable effort to construct. Many users have asked TRACKS to build a shortcut option, similar to those on the Los Burros and Land of Pioneers trails. TRACKS volunteers have GPS'd the proposed route and have submitted it to the US Forest Service for Heritage Study review and approval. Big kudos go out to Nick for his work with the County on getting funding for this project!

**SPOTLIGHT – Astra the Baby Falcon**

**STOLEN BIRD!** Sometime during the night on July 5, someone broke into the White Mountain Nature Center and stole an Aplomado falcon. These birds are no longer found in the wild in Arizona (due to habitat loss) so she should be easy to identify if seen. Police have the person in custody who stole the falcon! That's the good news. The bad news is that the bird was purportedly released into the woods along Woodland Lake Road near the Nature Center. TRACKS members can help by keeping their eyes open in that area. The falcon can fly, but only to a limited extent so look on the ground or lower branches of trees if you hike in that area. Time is limited because the bird is too young to have learned many survival skills. Call John Glitos directly at 480-688-5101 if you see the falcon. Call the police as well. The reward is still being offered. FREE training shows continue 3:00 to 4:00 daily weather permitting.

**TOUR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS** *By Nate Kear*

The 26th annual Tour of the White Mountains bike event is scheduled this year for Saturday Oct 1, 2022. Epic Rides of Tucson manages the event. Riders can choose rides of 9, 35, or 50 miles on our White Mountains Trail System or a 30-mile forest road ride. Epic's goal in the event is 1200! TRACKS volunteers mark the course, sweep the riders, help with packet pickup/registration, serve at aid stations, guide riders at critical turn points and road crossings, help at the kids' ride in the venue, direct campers to sites in the start/finish area, etc. Epic makes a sizable donation to TRACKS that helps support our activities throughout the year. The earlier you can volunteer, the easier it is to make a total volunteer plan. Let me know if you wish to be at the same location as last year. Please let me know (natekear@gmail.com) if you'd like to volunteer this year and/or wish to be at the same location as last year.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)**

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am – 12pm each week and holds special programs throughout the summer.

- Aug 6, 9 AM Nature Hike – Ron Miller
- Aug 6, 6 PM Bird Show – John & Balinda
- Aug 12, 6 PM Tony Attanasio – Art Show
- Aug 20, 6 PM Geocaching – John, Balinda & Judy

*Note: All events are held at the Nature Center on Woodland Lake Road.*

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](#) or [Facebook page](#). 🙌

**TRACKS BIKING**

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bikers continue to enjoy rides on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Rides are social and non-competitive. If you are interested in joining the rides, email Nick [nplundaz@gmail.com](mailto:nplundaz@gmail.com) or use the "join" form on the TRACKS website and check mountain biking as one of your interests. Helmets are required and your bike needs to be in good, rideable condition.

**August White Mountain Happenings**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Night out
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Audubon Society Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> High Country Half Marathon
- 13<sup>th</sup> White Mountain sheriff Posse Bar=B-Que
- 13<sup>th</sup> Walking Down Ranch Sock Hop
- 27<sup>th</sup> Happy Tails Auction & Bar-B-Que
- 27<sup>th</sup> Chocolate Tasting Butterfly Museum

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**

<https://www.VisitPinetoplakeside.com>

**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/>

**White Mountain Apache Tribe**

<http://whitemountainapache.org/>

**Sunrise Ski Resort**

<https://www.sunriseskipark.com/>

**UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)**

By Susan High

- Aug. 3 Mt. Baldy Crossover Trail - 5.0 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at \*GDE at 6:45AM. \*\*Rideshare \$5
- Aug. 10 Land of Pioneers, Middle Loop - 5.0 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet at \*GDE at 6:45AM. \*\*Rideshare \$5
- Aug. 17 Government Trail (Greer) - 5.0 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet at \*GDE at 6:45AM. \*\*Rideshare \$5
- Aug. 24 Indian Springs (Big Lake area) - 6.0 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet at \*GDE at 6:45AM. \*\*Rideshare \$5
- Aug. 31 East or West Baldy - 6.0 miles. Tentative plans are to have two groups--one on each trail--so your choice. Difficulty 2.5. Meet at \*GDE at 6:45AM. \*\*Rideshare \$5

*\*GDE is Golden Dragon Express, in the parking lot of the Pinetop Safeway.*

*\*\*Rideshare is the suggested donation amount for carpool drivers. 🙏*

**TUESDAY TREKKERS**

By Jim Meeker

- Aug. 2 Timber Mesa Trail No. 636. Easy about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM\*\*. Ed Gorny will be our volunteer leader. Rideshare \$2.00\*.
- Aug. 9 Thompson Trail No. 629. Easy about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM\*\*. Rideshare \$5.00\*. Heather Steiner will be our volunteer leader.
- Aug. 16 Indian Spring Trail No. 627. Easy about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM\*\*. Rideshare \$5.00\*.
- Aug. 23 Panorama Trail No. 635. Easy about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM\*\*. Rideshare \$2.00\*.
- Aug. 30 Avenue of the Giants from Railroad Grade Trailhead. Easy about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM\*\*. Rideshare \$5.00\*. Liz and Tom Jernigan will be our volunteer leaders

*\*Rideshare is suggested donation for carpool drivers.*

*\*\* PM is Parking lot south of Pinetop McDonalds 🙏*



## APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

Lakeside Ranger District News *By Lorna McNeil-Cox*

The forest is now receiving some heavy rains in places and diverting surface water off the trails may be a priority. Water always finds the path of least resistance, which is usually the trail. Running water erodes tread and support structures and damages the trail tread, while standing water can cause soft, boggy trail segments. Though we all want to see the forest getting rain, it is a good idea to design and maintain trails to keep water off the trail to prevent erosion damage and widening trails.

One method to keep water moving across and off the trail is the grade reversal. This technique is also called grade dips or swales. A trail with grade reversals and outsloped tread encourages water to sheet across the trail instead of down it or pooling on it. Grade reversals are the most unobtrusive of all drainage features and require little maintenance. This technique takes advantage of natural dips in the terrain and should be used frequently, about every 20 to 50 feet. Grade reversals can easily be achieved by curving the trail around large trees and rocks and should be built with outsloped tread into the trail when it is constructed. This kind of construction is more effective than any other drainage structure that can be built into the trail after it is built.

Stay tuned for trails that are already existing and require drainage maintenance and structures. Enjoy the rain and watch out for lightning!

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Fire Management webpage <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf> and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/fire>. ❗

## 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 928 367-7003.

## Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

*By Aaron Hartzell*

As summer progresses and monsoon season settles in it is a great time to be in the White Mountains. I really enjoy sitting outside as a storm moves in and the cool air descends from the sky, just before the skies open with a cool rain. These cool afternoons are also a great opportunity to get out and see the outdoors. Whether you get out and drive the backroads, take a hike, or hit a bike trail; there are many ways to enjoy the outdoors. During these forays you will find that wildlife also like to take advantage of these cool temperatures as they are often active on these summer afternoons and evenings. These afternoon outings can be a great time to see wildlife, often with young ones in tow. The Game and Fish Department encourages people to enjoy these wildlife sightings, but to do so from a distance. There is often a temptation to try to sneak in close for either a better picture, or just to get a better view of the animals. As tempting as this might be it can lead to additional stress for the young or aggression from what could be an overprotective mother. In either case it has the potential to end poorly. With this said, get out and enjoy the outdoors and all that mother nature has to offer. ❗

**SUPPORT TRACKS:** Use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to select a charity of your choice (hopefully TRACKS) and the Amazon Foundation sends a donation to that charity that is a percentage of each of your purchases. Use the same username and password as you do on Amazon.



**TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – August**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: Meeting each Monday at 7:30 am at pre-designated location.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew, or email Nick Lund at: <a href="mailto:nplundaz@gmail.com">nplundaz@gmail.com</a> . See page one of newsletter for information about Trail Crew news.
Biking: Tuesday through Saturday.	Biking <i>Weather permitting</i>	To receive biking information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at <a href="mailto:nplundaz@gmail.com">nplundaz@gmail.com</a> . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
<b>UP THE HILL GANG</b> Aug 3 Mt Baldy Aug 10 Land of the Pioneers Aug 17 Government Trail Aug 24 Indian Springs Aug 31 E/W Baldy	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking: <i>Weather permitting</i> 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 <a href="mailto:shigh118@gmail.com">shigh118@gmail.com</a> .
<b>TUESDAYS TREKKERS</b> 2 Timber Mesa 9 Thompson Trail 16 Indian Springs 23 Panorama 30 Ave of the Giants		To receive UTHG & TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at <a href="mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us">jmeeker@azsunshine.us</a> .
<b>BOARD MEETING: Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 August 11</b>	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting, Members and visitors welcome</b>	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
<b>GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the month August 13 8:00 am</b>	<b>TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)</b>	<b>This potluck meeting <i>only</i> held at the smaller Ramada at Woodland Lake nearer the restrooms. Limited seating; bring a chair.</b>



958 S. Woodland Road  
Lakeside, AZ 85935  
[www.trackswitemountains.org](http://www.trackswitemountains.org)