

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good



End of Trail Crew Oct 2022

Spring is here! We are expecting another busy year due to the possibility of considerable damage to trails with all the snow and recent rains.

The trail crew will

start their work **on Monday, April 10th**. We are hoping that the wonderful crew of last year will return, and others will join and be able to enjoy the joy of working on the trails. There is much satisfaction in a job well done. Please sign-up on the TRAILS webpage if you're interested !

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 AM – 12 PM each week and holds special programs throughout the summer. **NEW:** Weekly Saturday family hikes:

- April 1 Hike Forest Ecology (8:30 AM)
- April 8 Hike Forest and Aquatic Health (8:30 AM)
- April 8 Hummingbirds of the White Mtns (6 PM)
- April 15 Hike Decomposers and Edibles (8:30 AM)
- April 22 Hike Wildflower Magic (8:30 AM)
- April 22 Earth Day Meteor Showcase & Night Sky Watching (10 AM & 7 PM)
- April 29 Hike with **TRACKS** (8:30 AM)

The Nature Center in collaboration with Land On Sky Wildlife Experiences is bringing a world-class free-flight Raptor Show to the White Mountains. Returning April 1 will be daily training exhibitions from 3:00 to 4:30 — free to the public. Come and meet Funky, Simon, Azul, Speedy and Astro, and see these amazing birds of flight.

Note: All events are held at the Nature Center on Woodland Lake Road. Please contact the WMNC to confirm events. The WMNC is a non-profit organization and donations are gratefully accepted. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our center and programs and for board members! Memberships are now annual; join or renew today. For more information, please call 928-358-3069, or visit our website www.wmnature.org/ or www.facebook.com/wmnature !

SPOTLIGHT *By Nick Lund*

TRACKS is excited to announce that the White Mountains Trail System has been chosen as a **2023 Leave No Trace Spotlight!** To be chosen for this program is a national honor and recognition of the quality of our trail system. TRACKS will be joined by a **Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Team** to bring attention to the White Mountains and to shine a spotlight on our community. The June 2nd - 4th event will be at the White Mountain Nature Center. TRACKS will partner with the Nature Center and SciTech Institute for experiences focusing on Leave No Trace (LNT). Joya Szalwinski, our USFS Lakeside District Recreation Ranger and a LNT educator will lead a Leave No Trace workshop.

We will have our annual National Trails Day potluck dinner, in addition to hikes, workshops, and special hands-on activities throughout the weekend. Please put this on your calendar and be ready to get excited about Leave No Trace, TRACKS, and our Trail system. What a wonderful way to begin our summer season! If interested in getting involved, contact Lynn Krigbaum at gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com or text 928 242-8814. !

TRACKS CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

By Cathy Purvis



January Ski Activity

And what a season it has been! Snow started a little late, so it wasn't until mid-December before we had our first ski outing. But boy, the New Year's Day snowfall and the

subsequent storms in January and February kept us skiing through March. Due to the amount of snow the area received, many of our regular skiers stayed close to their homes and skied in their neighborhoods. We had a few members join us for our after TRACKS general meeting – but not as many as previous years. We hope it's because of schedules, and not lack of interest. The snow was so bountiful, many members also went snow shoeing. My personal highlights were skiing under the full February moon, along with the many trips from East Lane to the Chipmunk Connector. There is nothing like skiing in the woods with the green pine trees and white snow alongside you and the blue sky above. So peaceful. We hope to be still skiing in early April, so please email Lynn Krigbaum at gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com, if you are interested. !



TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain biking will probably resume in May so get your bike ready. 🚲

Spring White Mountain Happenings

- April 1 Wild Hare Color Run/Walk Show Low City Park
- April 5 White Mtn Audubon Society Meeting
- April 8 Easter Family Party Woodland Lake Park
- April 8 Easter Egg Hunt Taylor Rodeo Grounds
- April 15 Tillman Honor Run Woodland Lake Park
- April 18 Beginning Birding: Basics Northland Pioneer College
- April 25 Beginning Birding: What Did You See Northland Pioneer College

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:

Pinetop/Lakeside

<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:

<http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/> Monthly meetings return April 5th

White Mountain Apache Tribe:

<http://whitemountainapache.org/>

Sunrise Ski Resort: <https://www.sunriseskipark.com/>

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Susan High

The White Mountain TRACKS’ “Up the Hill Gang” invites you to join our 2023 Wednesday morning summer hikes!

May 3: Show Low Bluff Trail, 3 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at the barn visible from Hwy. 260, 560 S. Rock Ridge Rd., Show Low, 7:45AM.

May 10: Country Club and Pat Mullins Trails. The CC Trail is a 3.5 mile relatively flat loop trail. Off the CC trail is the Pat Mullins Vista, a 1.0 mile up and back down trail that is optional. Difficulty 2.5. To ride share, meet in the parking lot near the W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen * at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share \$2. Alternatively, meet us at the Country Club Trailhead at 8AM.

May 17: Old Hatchery and Springs Trails, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet in the parking lot near the W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen* at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share \$2. Alternatively, meet us at the Old Hatchery trailhead at AZ Game & Fish parking lot, Pinetop at 8AM.

May 24: Panorama Short Loop, 6 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet in the parking lot near the W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen* at 6:45AM. Suggested ride-share is \$3. Alternatively, meet us at the Panorama trailhead off Porter Mountain Rd. at 8AM.

May 31: Land of Pioneers Short Loop, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet in the back parking lot of the Social Security office, 2500 E. Cooley, Show Low, 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share is \$5.

*W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop.

We care about your safety! Trail distances are not always exact, and the difficulty rating (on a scale of 1-5) is subjective. Please know your limitations and bring extra water and snacks and anything else you need for your safety and comfort. For more information about trails, including downloadable maps, click here to view TRACKS White Mountain Trail System. Per Apache Sitgreaves Forest regulations, dogs are allowed if they remain on a 6-foot or shorter leash. Hikers with dogs will be asked to walk at the back of the group to minimize tripping and other hazards. We try to carpool/rideshare to save gas and the planet, but you are welcome to drive your own vehicle to trailheads. All hikes are subject to change/cancellation based on weather and other circumstances beyond our control. 🚲



TUESDAY TREKKERS

By Jim Meeker

The Tuesday Trekkers are getting ready for another Summer of low impact hiking. We've made a plan, drafted a schedule, and now we're getting our boots ready for the season. If you would like to be on the email to receive updates and changes to the schedule, send your email address to jmeeker@azsunshine.us. The Tuesday Trekkers are hoping some of our hikers will volunteer to lead a hike this Summer. Here's our planned schedule for the next two months:

May 2 Woodland Lake Park: Easy hike about 2.0 miles. See ** below for meeting location.

May 9 Billy Creek Connector and Blue Ridge Trails: About 2.5 miles rated Easy. See some interesting rock formations along the Blue Ridge trail. See ** below for meeting location.

May 16 Country Club Trail No. 632: About 3.25 miles rated Easy. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$2.00.

May 23 West Fork Trail No. 94 Meadow. About 3 miles rated Easy. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$5.00.

May 30 Chipmunk Connector No. 631A from the Corral: About 3.5 miles rated Easy. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$2.00.

June 6 Springs Trail No. 633: About 3 miles rated Easy. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$2.00.

June 13 Show Low Bluff Trail: About 2.5 miles rated Easy. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the trailhead, along White Mountain Rd. (Hwy. 260) in Show Low.

June 20 Butler Canyon Trail: A nature trail about 1 mile long rated Easy. Ann Howard will be our volunteer leader. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$5.00.

June 27 Chipmunk Connector No. 631A, from F.R. 224 to Los Burros Trail: About 3 miles rated Easy. See ** below for meeting location. Suggested ride share \$5.00.

****Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 departure in parking lot on the south side of Pinetop McDonalds. !;**

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST Lakeside Ranger District News

by Lorna McNeil-Cox

The good news for the forest is that we are having winter this season! For the first time in a while fire, danger is low, and snow is high. The amount of snow on the Forest creates entirely different issues than when we don't have enough snow. Many roads on the Forest are closed due to heavy snow and others can be difficult to navigate. Make sure you check with local authorities such as local Forest Service Offices about local conditions and road conditions BEFORE you set out on your trip! Most Forest Service roads are not maintained and are now covered with snow and can be impassable during the winter. Also check current and forecast weather conditions before beginning your trip.

Knowledge of the area, weather, route, your physical limitations, and the condition and limitations of your equipment, vehicle, or snowmobile plus a little common sense can ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Be sure to bring layers of warm clothing, waterproof outerwear, food, water, a way to communicate should you need help, first-aid kit, and survival gear should you get stranded. Remember to avoid muddy roads/trails as the snow melts to prevent resource damage.

Preparation and safety are of utmost importance while recreating in the National Forest. Please observe safety alerts and notices before your excursion to the Forest. Simply knowing the current conditions, closures and alerts prepares you for a pleasurable outdoor visit, free from any surprise that could deter your fun! Please visit the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest website for alerts and notices at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/asnf/alerts-notices>

NOTE: This is Lorna's last column as she is retiring. Please join us for Lorna's retirement party on April 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Meadow Lark Ramada at Fool Hollow. This is a potluck. USFS will have a cake. Please bring something to share, your beverage and your plate/utensils. At the kiosk, tell them you are attending Lorna's retirement party for free entry. TRACKS will miss her monthly articles, and we wish her much happiness in her well-deserved retirement !;

HIGHWAY 260

Concerned about the condition of Highway 260?

Raise your voices, speak your mind to:

State Rep. David Cook: dcook@azleg.gov 602 926-5162

State Rep. David Marshall: dmarshall@azleg.gov 602 926-3579



EVERY SATURDAY, ALL SUMMER LONG
8:30 AM ~ Guided Hike ~ at the
White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd
Pinetop-Lakeside
\$10 donation suggested
Members and kids free

Recharge and breathe in
nature, we'll guide you...

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA
IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS** *By Mreen Helm*



Efforts have begun anew to start a Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) chapter in the White Mountains. An Organizational Meeting will be held **April 15 at Noon, at the White Mountain Nature Center in Lakeside**. All interested parties and their families are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be served. BCHA is a nation-wide volunteer service organization that is committed to protecting the access of equestrians to public lands. They partner and collaborate with like-minded organizations and public land management agencies, assisting with trail maintenance and improvement projects, keeping trails open for all user groups. BCHA advocates at the local, state, and national level for the protection of trails and America’s heritage of recreational stock use and the riding experience on our nation’s public lands.

Much of BCHA’s work involves “horsepower” as well as human power. Along with horse use for general trail assessment and work projects, many of their pack trips with horses and mules assist trail crews by packing food, camping gear, and trail maintenance equipment into areas where four-wheeled vehicles cannot go. BCHA helps two-footed trail workers get more done by packing in what they need.

BCHA has strong family values educating the next generation to their responsibilities and stewardship in assuring that our public lands remain available for their use and enjoyment. Chapters welcomes volunteers and riders of all types, ages, and interests. For more information email mreenhelm@gmail.com. 🐾

TRACKS APRIL SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: April 10 th , and ongoing through October 2023	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew, or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page for information about Trail Crew news.
Biking: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday starting in May	Biking <i>Weather permitting</i>	To receive biking information visit www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com .
<p>UP THE HILL GANG</p> <p>May 3 Show Low Bluff</p> <p>May 10 Country Club/Pat Mullins</p> <p>May 17 Old Hatchery/Springs</p> <p>May 24 Panorama Short Loop</p> <p>May 31 Land of the Pioneers Short Loop</p> <p>TUESDAY TREKKERS</p> <p>May 2 Woodland Lake Park</p> <p>May 9 Billy Creek Connector</p> <p>May 16 Country Club Trail #632</p> <p>May 23 West Fork Trail #95</p> <p>May 30 Chipmunk Connector</p> <p>June 6 Springs Trail #633</p> <p>June 13 Show Low Bluff Trail</p> <p>June 20 Butler Canyon Trail</p> <p>June 27 Chipmunk Connector</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking:</p> <p><i>Weather permitting</i></p> <p>See page two and three for specific hiking schedule information.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>For maps and additional information, please see the TRACKS website: https://trackswhitemountains.org/</p> <p>To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us.</p>
BOARD MEETING: Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 PM April 6 th	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the month at 8 AM April 8 th May 13 th	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	Meetings are held at Darbi’s in Pinetop at 8 AM through May. Come early to order breakfast and socialize with fellow members.