

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good

We had a great turnout of volunteers not only on our first day of the season, but also as many volunteers for the second Monday. We hope it continues as there is a lot of work ahead for us! The crew has been working on General Crooks Trail. We also put the Walnut Creek foot bridge back in place after the rains moved it downstream about 15 feet. Anyone who would like to help, please join us by signing up on the TRACKS webpage. 🇺🇸



April 10th – First day!



April 17th – 2nd week

SPOTLIGHT

By Lynn Krigbaum

Leave No Trace is Coming!

Friday, June 2nd through Saturday, June 3rd will be an event you don't want to miss!! TRACKS was chosen to host the **Leave No Trace** team spotlighting our **White Mountain Trail System**. This will take place at the White Mountain Nature Center starting at 8AM on Friday with registration and donuts and coffee. Our Service Project is building a short trail to join the ramp gate to the regular Nature Center trail that we built several years ago. This

will be a highlight and a special opportunity. We hope that everyone who comes to the 2-day event will participate in this project. There will be several opportunities to learn from the LNT presenters; ideas that are important to all of us who love the outdoors.

Another feature of this event will be our annual celebration of **National Trails Day**. On Saturday June 3rd at 4:30 PM, we will have our normal POTLUCK dinner which is one of the best times of the year. Be sure to put this on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there!! 🇺🇸

We are looking for volunteers to help set-up on Thursday, June 1st, throughout the event and Sunday. Please contact Lynn at 928-242-8814 or email: gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 AM – 2 PM each week and holds special programs throughout the summer, like Saturday guided hikes at 8:30 AM, all summer long.

- May 6 Hike - Forest Ecology R Miller
- May 6 Falcons of AZ at 6 PM
- May 13 Hike - Forest & Aquatic Health C Hansen
- May 13 AZ Native Plant Sale at 10 AM
- May 20 Hike — Decomposers & Edibles R Gagnon
- May 27 Hike — Wildflower Magic G & J Porterie

WMNC in collaboration with Land On Sky Wildlife Experiences is bringing a world-class free-flight Raptor Show to the White Mountains. It features Simon and Garfunkel, Eurasian Eagle Owls, and other amazing species trained by Certified Professional Trainers to perform natural behaviors on cue. Free daily training exhibitions are open to the public from 3 – 4:30 PM.

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 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.

Memberships are now annual; join or renew today. For more information, please visit our website

www.wmnature.org/ or www.facebook.com/wmnature 🇺🇸

Note: The WMNC Board has canceled this year's Annual Benefit Dinner but is reviewing other fund-raising options. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call 928-358-3069 or email whitemountainnaturecenter@gmail.com

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

Weekly bike rides have resumed on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. These are social, not competitive rides, with helmets required. If you would like to join the group, please send an email to Nick at nplundaz@gmail.com !

Spring White Mountain Happenings

- May 2 Beginning Birding
- May 3 Audubon Society Meeting
- May 4,5 Star Wars Days Pinetop Library
- May 4,5,6 Footloose Blue Ridge High School
- May 5 Luna Tunes Talent Night
- May 5,6 BBQ Throwdown Show Low
- May 6 Blue Ridge Scholarship Golf Tournament
- May 10 Beginning Birding: Birds of Prey
- May 13 Gathering of the People
- May 15 Registration for Greer Days Family Fun Run
- May 19 Ballet Celebration
- May 20 Spring Tea in the Pines
- May 27 Hogs and Hot Rods

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/

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/>

TUESDAY TREKKERS

By Jim Meeker

May 2: Woodland Lake Park. Easy hike about 2.0 miles.*

May 9: Billy Creek Connector and Blue Ridge Trails. Easy hike about 2.5 miles. Interesting rock formations.*

May 16: Country Club Trail No. 632. Easy hike about 3.25 miles.* Suggested ride share donation \$2.00.

May 23: West Fork Trail No. 94 Meadow. Easy hike about 3 miles.* Suggested ride share donation \$5.00.

May 30: Chipmunk Connector No. 631A, from the Corral. Easy hike about 3.5 miles.* Suggested ride share donation \$2.00.

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

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

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG) *By Susan High*

The White Mountain TRACKS “Up the Hill Gang” invites you to join our Wednesday morning summer 2023 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. 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. Meet at 7:45 AM* or Country Club TH at 8:00 AM. Suggested ride-share \$2.

May 17: Old Hatchery and Springs Trails, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at 7:45 AM* or Old Hatchery at 8:00 AM. Suggested ride-share \$2.

May 24: Panorama Short Loop, 6 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet at 7:45AM* or Panorama TH at 8:00 AM. Suggested ride-share is \$3.

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

June 7: Green's Peak, 5.0 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at 6:45 AM (note June's start time)*. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5

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

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

May 16th - TRACKS - Meet at 8:00 AM at the Fun Park to clean up mile 347 to 348.

May 18th - Nature Center - Meet at 8:00 AM at the Forest Service Office to clean up mile 349 to 350

For both dates wear a hat, closed toed shoes, long pants, sunscreen, and gloves. Please consider helping on both days. For more information call Lynn Krigbaum at 928 242-8814 or Gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com !;

GRANT UPDATE

The ramp/rollover gate project has begun! Ten gates were installed in April in the following trails: Los Burro, Country Club, Chipmunk, Iron Horse, and 4 Springs. The contractor will return in mid-June to finish Los Burros and 4-Springs, depending on weather. Our thanks to Board Member, Steve Dobbs for overseeing this project.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Board has set aside our **August 12th** General Meeting to celebrate TRACKS beginnings and to honor our Charter Members and Presidents. We are trying to locate past members who were very involved from 1991 – 1992. If you were one or know someone, please contact Cathy Purvis at cpurvis25@gmail.com. !;

TRACKS MEMBER RECOGNIZED



Our own Ron Miller was selected by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management as their **2023 Citizen Forester of the Year!**

This recognition is for someone who upholds and demonstrates values associated with a dedication to forestry and responsible management of forest resources. On the agency's website, Ron was selected because of the following: *Ron led monthly nature hikes to teach forest ecology, organized and presented to five different school groups to teach about local trees, created a memorial arboretum using native tree species to honor local people, and gave presentations for monarch reforestation – all as a volunteer!* And we personally know, he does much, much more!



Nick presenting Lorna with TRACKS Certificate of Appreciation

TRACKS was well represented at **Lorna McNeil-Cox's retirement party**, along with US Forest Service (USFS) staff, Arizona Game & Fish employees and WMOTA members. Lorna had been with the USFS for 35 years, the last 22+ years at our own Lakeside District office. She has been an avid supporter of TRACKS and a valuable partner in assisting us with trail build and maintenance. She will be missed, but we wish her well in

her retirement! !;

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

By Joyce Szalwinski

It's a new day here in Lakeside! Plenty of new faces blew in with the spring weather, so thought we would introduce some people you are likely to bump into.

Jevon Kindelay

Trail Coordinator (NON-MOTORIZED)



Born and raised right here, Jevon comes to us with slew of trail experience, spending the last five years working both on conservation trail crews and as a crew leader (AZCC). Solid experience with multiple agencies around the north and southwest earned him knowledge in

invasive species, fuel reduction, cattle fencing, and cultural preservation. Jevon will be the district's trail subject matter expert assisting with EATC projects and acting as the TRACKS liaison – identifying and prioritizing trail work, attending Saturday meetings and joining you on Monday trail workdays.

Christopher Hansen – Interpretive Park Ranger



Chris joins us for a summer of hiking and talking and it looks like he is a perfect fit! Hailing from Georgia, Chris' last post was on the Colville NF in Wash-

ington. Look for him leading the Saturday hikes at Big Springs Interpretive Area and giving interpretive presentations/activities at Fool Hollow State Park.

Christopher Keahon - OHV Trail Coordinator (MOTORIZED)



Originally from the Hudson River Valley in NY, Chris has been with us for about six months. An avid outdoorsman,

he enjoys rafting (a lot!) and exploring the southwest's endless canyons. Well- traveled and curious, Chris is our local off-road expert, helping the district with EATC planning, responsible to sign and monitor OHV routes, act as a liaison to WMOTA, coordinate and organize volunteer projects related to OHV use. Chris will obtain his citation authority after completing his Forest Protection Officer training in May at which point, he will be patrolling the district to advise visitors of rules and regs and provide info and assistance. 🗣️

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH NEWS

By Aaron Hartzell

It is hard to believe, but it seems like spring has finally arrived and summer will be here before we know it. As the high country becomes accessible for the public it is understandable that there may be some excitement from folks looking to reconnect with the outdoors. As you do so please stay on roads to minimize resource damage. As the snow continues to melt it results in saturated soils that can be easily damaged by people driving around snow drifts or fallen trees. This is also a good time to make sure your Off Highway Vehicles are current with their registration and OHV decal. These can both be obtained through the MVD website. The Game and Fish Department thanks you for your cooperation in this effort to protect our natural resources. 🗣️

TRACKS MAY SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew Every Monday, depending on weather. Ongoing through October 2023.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew, or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for information about Trail Crew news.
Biking Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.	Biking <i>Weather permitting</i>	To receive biking information visit www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
UP THE HILL GANG May 3 Show Low Bluff May 10 Country Club/Pat Mullins May 17 Old Hatchery/Springs May 24 Panorama Short Loop May 31 Land of the Pioneers Short Loop TUESDAY TREKKERS May 2 Woodland Lake Park May 9 Billy Creek Connector May 16 Country Club Trail #632 May 23 West Fork Trail #95 May 30 Chipmunk Connector	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking: <i>Weather permitting</i> See page two and three 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 . For maps, newsletters, and additional information, please see the Tracks website: https://trackswhitmountains.org/ To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us .
BOARD MEETING Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00, May 11	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the month, May 13	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	Meeting is held Darbi’s in Pinetop at 8 AM but come early to order breakfast. We will return to summer potluck meetings at Woodland Lake in July (remember June’s meeting will be an afternoon potluck on the 3rd at the Nature Center, as part of our Leave No Trace event and National Trails Day).