

LEAVE NO TRACE – SPOTLIGHT

By Lynn Krigbaum

Our community is honored to host the Subaru/*Leave No Trace* (LNT) traveling team, spotlighting our **White Mountain Trail System**. The two-day event held at the **White Mountain Nature Center** shines a spotlight on challenges the outdoors is facing, brings attention to community conservation, spreads education, builds momentum and inspires involvement for the future. For more information, go to: <https://lnt.org/event/leave-no-trace-spotlight-white-mountains-trail-system/>

Event Schedule Friday June 2nd

- 8 – 8:15 AM Registration, coffee, donuts – front porch
- 9:30 AM LNT Icebreaker (ongoing)
- 8:30 –
- Noon Stewardship Project — Trail Building Demo & Activity within the Nature Center Trail
- 9:30 –
- Noon LNT Presentation for Volunteers
- 10 AM The Science of Coffee (Pinetop Coffee House)
- 11:30 AM –
- 1 PM Señor Taco Food Truck on site
- 1 – 2 PM Disc Golf Presentation and Demo
- 2 – 3 PM Nature Center & TRACKS Presentation
- 3 – 4 PM Raptor Training Exhibition
- 4 PM Woodland Lake Cleanup — AZ Game & Fish

Event Schedule Saturday June 3rd

- 8 AM Registration, coffee, donuts – front porch
- 8:30 - 11:30 LNT Presentation & Activity — US Forest Service (one hour presentation inside, then move to the 7 LNT Stations outside along the Nature Center Trail)
- Noon \$5 Hot Dog Lunch — south side of Nature Center
- 1 PM LNT Hiking and Camping Presentation for Families & Educators
- 1 – 4 PM Information Booths of Local Agencies
- 1:30 PM Horses & Pack Animals on the Trails by Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountains
- 2 PM Fire Wise Presentation - Pinetop Fire Dept
- 3 – 4 PM Raptor Training Exhibition
- 4 PM TRACKS General Mtg, National Trails Day Potluck Dinner, BYOB, Speakers, Raffle

Note: Science of Guinness exhibit is open 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM both days inside WMNC

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good



We have had a wonderful participation of great volunteers this past month, so my sincere thanks to all of them. I hope it keeps up throughout the summer, as we have a lot of work ahead for us! We finished working on General Cook, cleaned up some of the Osprey Connector, and now working on Land of the Pioneers. Plus,

we finally replaced the Pat Mullen sign off the Country Club trail. Anyone who would like to help, please join us by signing up on the TRACKS webpage. 🙌

THANK YOU to TRACKS and White Mountain Nature Center Volunteers who joined us for the Spring Highway Clean-Up in mid-May. There was a great turnout on each day cleaning the respective one mile along Hwy 260. The town appreciates everyone’s effort in helping to keep our community clean! We also want to thank Jan Newton (TRACKS) and Lynn Krigbaum (Nature Center) for providing snacks to the hungry group. If you missed it this time, no worries. We will be looking for volunteers for the Fall Highway Clean-Up. 🙌



TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain biking group has been riding the trails and testing out the new rollover gates! From the smiles on these riders faces, the gates are a success. 🏆



WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10AM – 2PM, and holds special programs throughout the summer.

- June 6th 6 PM *White Mountain Apache Clans* by Eric Kramer
- June 10th 6 PM *The Forgotten Botanist* by Wynne Brown
- June 11th 10AM *WildEarth Guardians Mycology* by a member of Chiricahua Apache Tribe
- June 17th 6 PM *Predators of Arizona* by Bruce Taubert

And don't forget about the Saturday hikes:



The Nature Center in collaboration with Land On Sky Wildlife Experiences is bringing a world-class free-flight Raptor Show to the White Mountains. Daily training exhibitions from 3:00 to 4:30 are free to the public. 🏆

The Nature Center is located on South Woodland Road. If you are interested in volunteering at WMNC or to confirm events, please contact us at: 928-358-3069 or whitemountainnaturecenter@gmail.com. Please visit our website www.wmnature.org/ or www.facebook.com/wmnature

Summer White Mountain Happenings

- June 3 Cruz'n The Rim
- June 3 White Mountain Symphony Orchestra
- June 7 Audubon Society Meeting
- June 9 St Rita's Annual Fiesta
- June 9 – 10 Show Low Days
- June 14 Birding Basics
- June 14 Flag Day Ceremony Veterans Memorial Park
- June 17 Chalk Walk Show Low City Park
- June 17 White Mountain Rubber Ducky Pluck
- June 17 Race to the Pines Heber/Overgaard
- June 19 Birding Basics
- June 23 – 25 Balloon Festival
- June 30 Taylor Independence Celebration

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/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TRACKS will again be at this year's Firewise Event on Saturday, July 15th from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at Blue Ridge Elementary School on Porter Mountain Road. The event is hosted by Pinetop and Timber Mesa Fire Districts. If you are interested in helping at the TRACKS booth, please contact Arlene Nelson, TRACKS Board Member, at bluesisterbob5@gmail.com. Thank you!

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY POTLUCK DINNER!

New Time / Location: TRACKS annual potluck dinner and general meeting will be outside at the Nature Center "Grove" at 4:30 pm on Saturday, June 3rd. We will be celebrating National Trails Day and the Leave No Trace Event. Please bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. TRACKS will supply plates, napkins, and utensils.

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!

Please note the new 6:45 AM meeting time at W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop (near McDonalds).

- June 7** **Green's Peak***, 5.0 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.
- June 14** **Avenue of the Giants***, 4 miles. Difficulty 1.5. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.
- June 21** **Mt. Baldy, East or West Trail**, 6 miles. Difficulty 3.0. Mt. Baldy is a wilderness area that limits groups to 12 people. If we have more than 12, we'll split the group. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.
- June 28** **Los Burros** short loop, 6 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

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. 🐾

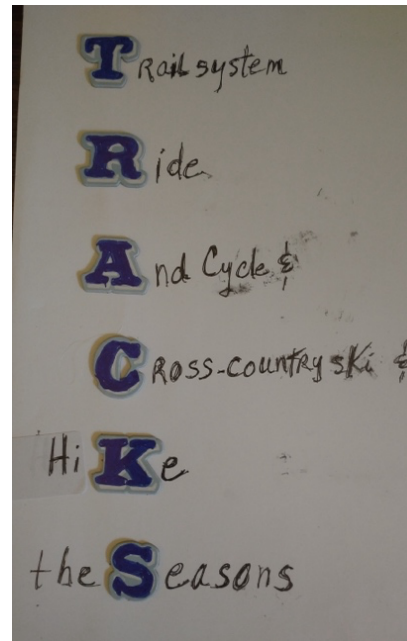
TUESDAY TREKKERS *By Jim Meeker*

Unless otherwise noted, meet at 7:45 AM for 8:00 AM departure on the south side of Pinetop McDonalds.

- June 6** Springs Trail No. 633. 3 miles, rated Easy. Suggested ride share donation \$2.00.
- June 13** Show Low Bluff Trail. 2.5 miles, rated Easy. **Meet at 8:00 AM at the trailhead** along White Mountain Rd. (Hwy. 260) in Show Low. Our volunteer leader will be Heather Steiner.
- June 20** Butler Canyon Trail. A nature trail about 1.5 miles long, rated Easy. Our volunteer leader will be Mabel Dietz. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00. Weather permitting, we may also hike a nearby short riparian trail, that is also easy.
- June 27** Chipmunk Connector No. 631A from the Vernon-McNary Road (F.R. 224) to the Los Burros Trail. About 3 miles, rated Easy. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00. 🐾

TRACKS: 30+ YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Cathy Purvis



Did you ever wonder why "TRACKS" is always in caps? Well, it's an acronym for Trail System Ride And Cycle, & Cross-country Ski & hi Ke the Seasons, and it all started in December 1991 as an off shoot of the White Mountain Horsemen's Association (WMHA).

We all need to thank the WMHA for being the driving force behind the

development of the White Mountain Trails System.

The group recognized in 1987 the need to establish defined trails by partnering with the US Forest Service and the community before more trails were encroached upon by developers. Back then, we had 10 miles of trails and by 1996 the White Mountain Trail System had grown to 120 miles. Fast forward to now, we have over 200 miles. TRACKS' first president, Bev Garcia, had been an active member and former president of WMHA along with other volunteers who focused on the need to keep the newly developed trails maintained.

A big shout out goes to Jerry Handorf, TRACKS first trail boss! It was Jerry's design to establish and maintain a network of interconnected trails in and around Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, and surrounding communities. Please join us during the **August 12th** general meeting to celebrate the beginnings of TRACKS, its history, and the inspirational and hard-working early members who started it all!

Note: We are trying to contact the Handorfs, so if you know how, please contact me at cpurvis25@gmail.com 🐾

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST Lakeside Ranger District News

By Joya Szalwinski

With the upcoming Leave No Trace (LNT) Spotlight Event on the White Mountain Trail System here in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, I thought it would be a good time to take a minute to talk about what Leave No Trace really is about — to me.

I became a LNT Master Educator in May of 2001. At the time, I was a Park Ranger on the Upper Mississippi River National. Before that, I became a LNT Trainer while working as a Park Ranger at Zion National Park.

Hiking the backcountry trails and narrow canyons I witnessed for myself the impacts careless recreation can have on the resource: wildlife disturbance and death, human waste on the trail (with the insidious toilet paper blooms), vanishing of petroglyphs, destroyed vegetation, and the total disregard for the resource in the event of an emergency when someone gets lost or injured. All these things are preventable.

Honestly, in all the places I have worked, the impacts remain the same. None of the resource related impacts I see here are new to this place; it's the same over and over again. And herein lies the secret that LNT unlocked — the overlooked and often neglected education of the *cumulative effects* of thousands of visitors in a resource area.

It's not just you and your one remote campfire pit, it's thousands of them; it's not just you leaving behind a little toilet paper, it's thousands of them; it's not just you chopping down trees for a better campsite, it's thousands of them; it's not just you putting in your special shortcut trail, it's thousands of them.

The 7 LNT Principles endeavor to illustrate how, with a few small changes from each of us, impacts to the resource could be minimized. Use a stove, pack out your toilet paper, find a suitable campsite, stay on the trail. Please join us on Saturday, June 3rd to learn exactly how to minimize these impacts, and leave it as if you weren't there at all. 🗣️

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH NEWS

By Aaron Hartzell

Summer is here and with kids getting out of school the mountain is once again going to see our annual influx of summer visitors. As roads and trails get busy, please remember to slow down, be patient, and take the time to enjoy what the mountain has to offer. Whether on an OHV, hiking a trail, or driving down some of our many forest roads there is something for everyone to enjoy. This time of year, wildlife is highly visible, and most evenings or mornings can offer great viewing opportunities across the mountain. This is also the time when wildlife will be having babies. The Department wants to remind folks to please leave baby wildlife alone, as the mother is typically not that far away. Each year animals become orphaned when they are picked up by well-meaning people who feel they are helping the animal. The Department encourages people who find baby wildlife to remain quiet and move away from the animal to minimize any impacts or stress that could come to the animal. For additional information or for Department contact information you can go to AZGFD.COM. 🗣️

GREAT NEWS!

It was recently announced that the Arizona Heritage Fund received a \$6 Million one-time appropriation for fiscal year 2024. The State budget also included \$500,000 for the Arizona Trail Fund. The Arizona Heritage Alliance with the help of hundreds of individual and organizational stakeholders across the state, in advocating for these programs benefitting Arizona's cultural, historic, and natural resources. The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit with the mission to preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage.

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TRACKS JUNE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew Every Monday morning, 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 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.
<p style="text-align: center;">UP THE HILL GANG</p> <p>June 7 Greens Peak June 14 Avenue of the Giants June 21 Mt Baldy June 28 Los Burros</p> <p>TUESDAY TREKKERS</p> <p>June 6 Springs Trail June 13 Show Low Bluff June 20 Butler Canyon Trail June 27 Chipmunk Connector</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking: <i>Weather permitting</i></p> <p>See page 3 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, newsletters, and additional information, please see the TRACKS website: https://trackswhitmountains.org/</p> <p>To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit www.trackswhitmountains.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 June 1 st	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING NOTE DATE / TIME June 3 rd at 4:30 PM	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	To celebrate National Trails Day and the Leave No Trace Event. Potluck Dinner will be held outside in the Nature Center “Grove”. Bring a dish to share and your own beverage.