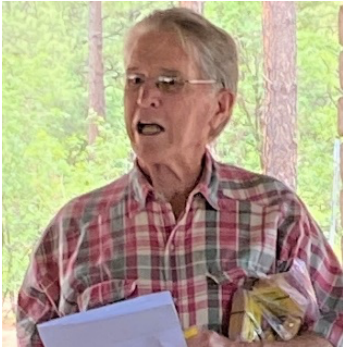


**SPOTLIGHT**



In early July, Nick Lund announced his resignation as president of TRACKS. In his own words: “After 16 years serving as president of TRACKS, including 5 years as chair of the Arizona State Committee on Trails, 10 years as co-chair of the AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund Public Advisory

Committee, and 11 years as Volunteer Coordinator for the Epic Rides Tour of the White Mountains, I decided it was time to resign. During my tenure, TRACKS membership grew from about 125 to over 650, with email lists for group hikes, mountain bike rides, cross country ski outings, and trail crew work. TRACKS moved from an ad-hoc committee of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside to become a non-profit 501.c.3 organization serving most White Mountains communities. I wrote grant applications for the rollover gates, that was funded for almost \$60,000 by Arizona State Parks & Trails, and for the Blue Ridge short cut trail that was funded for \$40,000 by Navajo County. The White Mountains Trail System was designated a premier trail system by Arizona State Parks and Trails, and TRACKS was given a National Award for Community Service by American Trails. The White Diamond Emergency Responder project was instituted, with all rescues completed in 45 minutes or less and one responding emergency responder. Two International Mountain Bike Association seminars, funded by Subaru, were awarded to TRACKS for teaching members how to build sustainable trails. Short cut trails were approved by the USFS and built by TRACKS trail crew for the Panorama, Los Burros and Land of Pioneer trails; the Chipmunk trail was rerouted off a rocky logging road that had 6 water crossings, 5 of the 6 were eliminated; the Panorama trail was rerouted out of a marshy meadow; the Osprey was built to connect Timber Mesa and Ice Cave trails. TRACKS built the Show Low Bluff trail on private land, and I convinced the developer to provide an easement to the City of Show Low so that the trail is open

to the community; TRACKS also built trails for the White Mountain Nature Center, the Humane Society of the White Mountains, Blue Ridge elementary school and Blue Ridge Middle School. The Tour of the White Mountains increased from about 500 to about 1250 riders, with significant annual donations to TRACKS from Epic Rides to help maintain the WMTS. Several "yard sales of gently used outdoor equipment" were successful and TRACKS member donations helped put TRACKS in a stronger financial position. It has been rewarding and a pleasure to serve as TRACKS president. TRACKS is a wonderful group of outdoor enthusiasts that enable non-motorized users to enjoy the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. I hope each of you will continue to enjoy TRACKS membership and give TRACKS strong support.”

On behalf of all the TRACKS members, thank you Nick for your dedication, devotion, and passionate stewardship over these past 16 years! 🙏

**TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)**

*By Jerry Good and Cathy Purvis*



The Trail Crew has been working on the Los Burros Trail since June and will most likely continue into August. Work has been dusty and the ground hard as concrete, as we wait for the monsoons to start, but our crew is persevering and doing a wonderful job. We’ve been learning about the importance of altering the grade to divert the water off the trail and building drainage six feet long (note picture above). Trail Crew will be meeting at Hon Dah at 0730 on Mondays for a few more weeks. We are always in need for more volunteers, so please come on out. The Los Burros Trail is a major trail used for the Tour of the White Mountains (TWM) Bike Race, thus the reason we concentrate on making it a superb riding/hiking trail. And speaking of TWM, if you are interested in volunteering, please go to <https://signup.com/go/MdPwJfx> and follow the directions. 🙏

**MEET STEVE DOBBS — TRACKS NEW PREZ**



In July, the TRACKS Board elected Steve Dobbs as President. Steve grew up in a small town in central Kentucky. He studied Agriculture at UK and was the manager at Dobbs Seed & Grain for 22 years. The business was sold, and Steve traveled in an RV for 10 years

before settling in Louisville, KY. He spent 7 years as a real estate agent before moving west to Surprise. After 3 years in the valley, he sought cooler climates and built a Show Low house in 2020. Steve has always hiked trails when he traveled around the country and discovered mountain biking in 2021. He became interested in TRACKS at that time and was invited to join the Board that fall. He has done a tremendous job with the rollover gate grant and has been centrally active in the Blue Ridge trail short cut grant. And as our new president, he has hit the ground running and introducing himself to many.

**LEAVE NO TRACE**

*By Lynn Krigbaum*

In June, TRACKS was the **Spotlight Event for Leave No Trace** to give presentations about environmental ideas and conservation practices. To continue giving this information to TRACKS members, we are reviewing the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace in each of the next newsletters.

**PRINCIPLE #1: PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE**

When outdoor visitors plan ahead and prepare, it helps to accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while simultaneously minimizing damage to the land. Poor planning often results in a less enjoyable experience and damage to natural and cultural resources.

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups-split larger parties into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste and use a map and compass to eliminate the use of rock cairns, flagging or marking paint.
- Use common sense is the most important part of Plan and Prepare.

**TRACKS BIKING**

*By Nick Lund*

19 rollover gates have been installed, and 8 more need to be manufactured and installed. We plan to install them before the end of August. This process was facilitated by almost a \$60,000 grant from Arizona State Parks & Trails and will be a huge improvement on our White Mountains Trail System. A tremendous effort by TRACKS Board member Steve Dobbs enabled all this to happen. Feedback from many users has been very positive. These gates are installed next to existing swing gates and enable hikers and mountain bikers to cross the many fence lines in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests without having to open/close an existing gate. Users who do not wish to use the rollover gates may still use the existing gate, but need to be careful to close the gate, as cattle can escape. One additional significant advantage of the rollovers is to enable physically challenged mountain bikers to use the trail system, since they do not have to dismount/remount their adaptive sports equipment. More are participating in the Tour of the White Mountains, and Epic Rides owner Todd Sadow met with the Arizona Adaptive Sports Association to inform them that all our rollovers should be installed before this year's TWM. 🙌

**White Mountain Happenings**

Aug 2	Audubon Society Meeting
Aug 3	First Thursday Bird Walk
Aug 10	Birding Basics NPC
Aug 12	Bird Walk at Becker Lake
Aug 18-19	Garden and Farm Tours
Aug 28	Hot Spots Birding-Rainbow Reservoir

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

The White Mountain TRACKS "Up the Hill Gang" invites you to join our Wednesday morning summer 2023 hikes! Meet at W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop for 6:45 AM departure.

**Aug 2: Government Trail**, 5+ miles. Difficulty rating 2.0. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

**Aug 9: Blue Ridge (section of)**, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2.0. Suggested ride-share donation is \$2. Alternatively, meet us at Blue Ridge Trailhead #2 at 7:00 AM.

**Aug 16: Indian Springs**, 3 miles. Difficulty rating 2.0. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

**Aug 23: Mt. Baldy, East or West Trails**, 6 miles. Difficulty rating 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.

**Aug 30: Flume Connector**, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2. Suggested ride-share donation is \$3. ❗

## TUESDAY TREKKERS

By Jim Meeker

To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information by email, visit [www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe](http://www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe) and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at [jmeeker@azsunshine.us](mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us).

Meet at 7:45 AM for 8:00 departure on the south side of Pinetop McDonald's.

**Aug 1: Timber Mesa Trail No. 636**. Easy hike about 3 miles.

**Aug 8: Thompson Trail No. 629**. Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00. Heather Steiner will be our volunteer leader.

**Aug 15: Indian Spring Trail No. 627**. Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00.

**Aug 22: Springs Trail No. 632 (partial segment)**. Easy hike about 2.5 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$2.00.

**Aug 29: Avenue of the Giants from Railroad Grade Trailhead**. Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00. Liz and Tom Jernigan will be our volunteer leaders. ❗

For up-to-date hiking events, bookmark our new calendar at [trackswhitemountains.org/calendar](http://trackswhitemountains.org/calendar).

## ARIZONA ALPINE TRAIL

By Jerry Smith

The motorized Arizona Alpine Trail, Inc an Arizona 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation was recently notified that our grant for the Master Plan has been approved and funded by Arizona State Parks and Trails effective June 23, 2023. This grant will be the foundation for the creation of our multi-modal, but primarily off road motorized (OHV) 700–800-mile loop trail between Payson and Hannagan Meadow traversing Gila, Coconino, Navajo, Apache and Greenlee counties. The *trail* will be located on some State & County highways and roads but primarily on trails and forest Roads in the Tonto, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves forests, which includes 7 Ranger Districts; Tonto Basin, Payson, Mogollon, Black Mesa, Lakeside, Springerville, & Alpine. The Master Plan will lay the groundwork for future trail development to improve the outdoor off highway experience of the White Mountains, as well as providing for consistent signage along the routes, maintenance of the trails, and in general all future improvements that requires grants to accomplish. ❗

## APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

By Joyce Szalwinski



Recently an online e-bike rental provider advertised 'The E-bike Trail of the Month' with the Buena Vista trail featured for July. A hiking/biking online app identifies Lakeside trails by name. Posts that identify trail routes feature e-bike decals that copy government agencies brown background with white lettering.

Someone is going to a lot of trouble to make it appear that the Lakeside non-motorized trail system allows this type of use. District regulation CFR 36 261.16N considers an e-bike a motorized bike restricted to areas designated for motorized travel. E-bikes are welcome to use FS roads and OHV motorized routes. Forest rangers are in the process of removing the illegal and misleading decals. A friendly reminder to all: keep the e-bikes off the hiking trail system! Your friends over at the Backcountry Horseman White Mountains will thank you for it and so do I! If you see any of these e-bike decals while you are out and about, please let me know the location and if it is safe to do so, remove it. ❗ [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

**LAKESIDE RANGER DISTRICT FIRE DANGER VERY HIGH. Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in effect.**

### WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am – 2pm each week and holds special programs throughout the summer.

Aug 12 Owls of Arizona – 6 PM

Aug 19 Cowboy Breakfast – 7:30 – 10 AM

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. It features Simon and Garfunkel, Eurasian Eagle Owls, and other amazing species trained by Certified Professional Trainers to perform natural behaviors on cue. Daily training exhibitions from 3:00 to 4:30 are free to the public.

*Note: All events are held at the Nature Center on Woodland 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/](http://www.wmnature.org/) or [www.facebook.com/wmnature](https://www.facebook.com/wmnature) !

The TRACKS Board invites you to our “Celebration of TRACKS: 1991 – 2023” event on Saturday, August 12th at 8 AM at Woodland Lake Park’s large ramada. We will honor hard-working and inspirational early members who were part of TRACKS in its development years. In addition, we plan to have USFS Lakeside District Ranger, Josh Miller, talk about current activities on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

### ARIZONA GAME AND FISH NEWS

*By Aaron Hartzell*

August is here and hunting season is back upon us. As hunting seasons begin, it is important for both hunters and non-hunters alike to be aware that there could be an increase in the number of people who are using our trails and backcountry. This could be in the form of folks out on horseback, OHV's, or on foot. As people get out on trails or off-trail it is always good to remember that we need to be considerate of those other users out there who may be enjoying our public lands in a different way than we are. With our forest being managed for multiple uses, please respect those around you so you will both be able to enjoy what the White Mountains have to offer. If you are out and you see a violation of our game laws, please call our Operation Game Thief line at 1-800-352-0700. This line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. [azqfd.com](http://azqfd.com) !

### SAVE THE DATE

TRACKS end of season potluck is on September 28, with a hike at 9am and a potluck at 11am in the large Woodland Lake Park ramada. Bring something to share and celebrate the end of another great summer season with fellow TRACKS members!

**TRACKS AUGUST SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: Work is ongoing. Join us at 7:30 on Mondays.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website <a href="http://www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe</a> , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew. 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 <a href="http://www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswhitmountains.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 three of newsletter for more biking news.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UP THE HILL GANG</b></p> <p>Aug 2 Government Trail Aug 9 Blue Ridge Aug 16 Indian Springs Aug 23 Mt Baldy East or West Aug 30 Flume Connector</p> <p><b>TUESDAY TREKKERS</b> Aug 1 Timber Mesa #636 Aug 8 Thompson Trail #629 Aug 15 Indian Springs Trail #627 Aug 22 Springs Trail #632 Aug 29 Ave of the Giants</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking: <i>Weather permitting</i></p> <p>See page 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 <a href="mailto:shigh118@gmail.com">shigh118@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>For maps, newsletters and additional information, please see the Tracks website: <a href="https://trackswhitmountains.org/">https://trackswhitmountains.org/</a></p> <p>To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit <a href="http://www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswhitmountains.org/subscribe</a> and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at <a href="mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us">jmeeker@azsunshine.us</a>.</p>
<p><b>BOARD MEETING:</b> Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 August 10</p>	<p>TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome</p>	<p>White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside</p>
<p><b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Second Saturday of the month August 12</p>	<p>TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)</p>	<p>Summer meetings are potlucks held at the big ramada at Woodland Lake. Fall and winter meetings held at Darbi’s; come at 7:30 to order breakfast.</p>