

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good



Jerry at the morning safety briefing and showing members how to dig drainage.

The summer season has been very good for working on the trails. The weather has cooperated, and our trail crew has been wonderful! They have risen to any task and have excelled. We have had an average of 20 members each Monday morning working on the trails, and we get new members almost each week. My thanks and deep appreciation to each one of them for their time and all their hard work and energy. We couldn't do it with you! As long as the weather holds, we will be working through October. Anyone who would like to help is welcome. 🙌

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund



Where can you find scenery like this?

TRACKS mountain bikers enjoyed a great summer season, riding Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. Rides are noncompetitive and primarily on forest roads.

OSYC SUPPORTS TRACKS

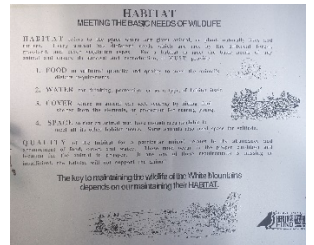


Hiking and yoga? The best of both worlds at our beautiful Pole Knoll. Donations will go to TRACKS! How cool is that?! Thank you, Open Spaces!

TRACKS INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY



Volunteering at the Big Springs Workday with the US Forest Service, AZ Game & Fish, the Nature Center, Blue Ridge School District, and others to clean up the Big Springs area, install directional signs, paint, and replace damaged interpretive signs. 🙌



Cleaning up AZ 260 one-mile posts for both TRACKS and the Nature Center



Walking in the Fall Festival Parade



SPOTLIGHT

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 3: DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

The waste humans create while enjoying outdoor spaces can have severe impacts if not disposed of properly. It is crucial to anticipate the types of waste you will need to dispose of and know the proper techniques for disposing of each type of waste in the area you are visiting. Leave No Trace encourages outdoor enthusiasts to consider the impacts they leave behind, which will undoubtedly affect other people, water, and wildlife.

The Basics:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled food. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Burning trash is never recommended.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Bury toilet paper deep in a cathole or pack the toilet paper out along with hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Other Forms of Waste

“Pack it in, Pack it out” is a familiar mantra. Trash items can take significant time to break down, are incredibly harmful to wildlife, and are unsightly to other visitors. Any user of natural spaces is responsible for cleaning up before they leave. Inspect your area for trash or spilled food. Pack out all trash and garbage.

It is critical to wildlife that we pack out kitchen waste, such as bacon grease and leftovers. Plan meals to avoid generating messy, smelly garbage. Don’t count on a fire to dispose of it. Half-burned or buried garbage will still attract animals and make a site unattractive to other visitors.

Overlooked trash is litter, which is not only ugly but can also be deadly. Plastic bags, cigarette butts, fishing line, and other trash can harm our environment when not properly disposed of.

Carry bags to haul your trash (and maybe someone else’s). Before moving on from an area, search for micro-trash, such as bits of food and trash, including organic litter like orange peels or pistachio shells. Invite the kids in your group to make a game out of scavenging for human signs.

Did you know it takes up to 2 years for banana peels to decompose, plus they can attract wildlife to be closer to human contact. Or that it takes food wrappers and plastic-coated paper 5 years!

This link has much more information, so please go to <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/dispose-of-waste-properly/> and learn why pack it out is so important!

TUESDAY SUMMER HIKES

by Jim Meeker and Heather Steiner



Greer Squirrel Springs

TRACKS Tuesday Trekkers

By Jim Meeker

The Tuesday Trekkers have been active since May 2 of this year and concluding October 24. Kudos to Jim Meeker (2nd on the left) who made this all happen!!! So far, we have enjoyed 19 weeks with 6 more to go! Our weekly average participation of energetic, fun, enthusiastic older hikers is 12.47 per week. We hike approximately a total of 3 easy miles. We meet every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m. for timely 8:00 a.m. departure at parking lot south of the Pinetop McDonald's. Suggested rideshare donation for moderate miles is \$3 and longer miles is \$5. If interested do join us before October 25. Or consider joining us when we begin again next Spring. 🐾

TUESDAY TREKKERS

Meet at 7:45 for 8:00 AM departure at the parking lot south of the Pinetop McDonalds unless otherwise noted.

Oct 3: Green's Peak area, from the old corral. This is an easy color hike along unimproved roads of about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00.

Oct 10: Pole Knoll loop. This will be an easy color hike of about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00.

Oct 17: Show Low City Park loop. This will be a really easy hike on a paved trail, followed by a season-ending potluck at Jim Meeker's house. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking area that is accessed from Clark Road, about 1 block west of the intersection with Deuce of Clubs.

Oct 24: East Fork Trail No. 95, from Gabaldon Campground. This is an easy hike of about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$5.00. 🐾

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

by Susan High

The White Mountain TRACKS "Up the Hill Gang" invites you to join our Wednesday morning 2023 hikes!

Oct. 4: Escudilla Wilderness, 6 miles. Difficulty rating 3. Meet in the parking lot near the W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, at **6:45AM**. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

Oct. 11: Poll Knoll, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2.5. Meet in the parking lot near the W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, at **7:45AM**. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

Oct. 18: East Ghost of Coyote, 5 miles, Difficulty rating 2.0. Meet at Show Low City Park, 1100 W. Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, at **7:45AM**. Suggested ride-share donation is \$3.

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am – 3pm each week and holds special programs throughout the year.

October 7th – 6 pm Arizona Trees

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 (building behind the Nature Center).

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.

For more information, please visit our website

www.wmnature.org/ or www.facebook.com/wmnature 🐾

Oct 25: Los Caballos, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2.0. Meet at Show Low City Park, 1100 W. Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, at **7:45AM**. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5. There will be a post-hike potluck; please bring a dish to share. Address will be provided at the meet location. 📍

White Mountain Happenings

Oct 7 Tour of White Mountains
Oct 7/8 On Site & Online Season Passes Sunrise Ski
Oct 14 Harvest Fest Willis Family Farm
Oct 20/22 White Mountain Film Festival
Oct 27 Let's Go Birding Audubon Society
Oct 28 Trunk or Treat Hatch Toyota
Oct 28 Trunk or Treat Pinetop Lakes Rec Center
Oct 28 Autumn Fest Mountain Meadow Park
Dec 1 Snowflake Town Lighting
Dec 1 Christmas Tree Lighting Jack Barker Park
Dec 2 Show Low Shines Christmas Parade
Dec 4-6 Taylor Live Nativity

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/>

SAVE THE DATE!

TRACKS Holiday Potluck and General Meeting on Saturday, December 9th at Jim Snitzer's House: 2401 Rainbow Lake Lane, Lakeside. Turn south on Neils Hanson Rd (White Mtn Veterinary Clinic) and take first right at Rainbow Lake Lane (if you see the Shores entrance, you've gone too far). Go ¼ mile, look for a standing chimney and unpaved driveway on your left.

11 am – come help decorate the tree

12 noonish – bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. A short general meeting will be held before lunch

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH

By Aaron Hartzell

As fall approaches it is once again nearing one of my favorite seasons to be in the White Mountains. The leaves are soon going to be changing and there will be a chill in the air that seems to bring a bit of magic. If you are able to get into the woods at the tail end of September or the first part of October, you are likely to hear the distinct sound of elk bugling. This is an awesome sound that can bring chills to even the most seasoned outdoor person. As you are out and about whether it be on foot, horseback, OHV, or vehicle, fall and early winter are great times to be looking for wildlife. Wildlife of all sorts will be taking advantage of this nice weather to prepare for winter. This could be by caching acorns, spending time grazing, or just looking for whatever resources they are going to need to make it successfully through winter. I would like to remind folks to always watch wildlife from a distance and allow them to go through their routines with minimal disturbance. I appreciate it and I am sure the wildlife will thank you too. My biggest encouragement is for each of you to take the time to disconnect from your device and go out and enjoy all that the White Mountains have to offer. 🌲

TRACKS FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: Work is ongoing on Mondays thru October. Trail Crew season will begin in April 2024	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe , 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 www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for more biking news.
<p style="text-align: center;">UP THE HILL GANG</p> <p>Oct 4 Escudilla Wilderness Oct 11 Pole Knoll Oct 18 East Ghost of Coyote Oct 25 Los Caballos</p> <p>TUESDAY TREKKERS Oct 3 Greens Peak Oct 10 Pole Knoll Loop Oct 17 Show Low City Park Loop Oct 24 East Fork Trail #95</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking.</p> <p><i>Weather permitting</i> TUESDAY TREKKERS hikes will start again in May 2024</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 shigh118@gmail.com.</p> <p>For maps, newsletters and additional information, please see the TRACKS website: https://trackswitemountains.org/</p> <p>To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us.</p>
<p>BOARD MEETING: Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 PM October 12 November 9 December 14</p>	<p>TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome</p>	<p>White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside</p>
<p>GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the month October 14 November 11 December 9 (Holiday Party at Jim’s)</p>	<p>TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)</p>	<p>Please note, our meetings are now at Darbi’s at 8 AM, but come early to order breakfast and to socialize!</p>



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