

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY CELEBRATION *by Mreen Helm*



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY CELEBRATION
 Saturday, June 1, 8:00 - 1:30
 White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Rd., Pinetop, AZ

- Cowboy Breakfast Fundraiser - 8 - 10:00
- Outdoor Recreation Yard Sale - 10 - 1:30
- Guided Hike - 8:30, Leave No Trace Walk - 10 - 12:00
- Forest Service - 9:15 & Firewise - 11:00
- Forestdale Blue Stone Singers - 10:30 - 1:00
- Perry's Frybread Stand - 11 - 1:00
- Raffles, Prizes, Fun Activities... & Much More!!!

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR TRAILS!
 For more information call 402-660-6149

June 1st is National Trails Day and TRACKS and the White Mountain Nature Center are hosting a community-wide National Trails Day Celebration from 8:00 – 1:30 at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Rd., Pinetop-Lakeside. The day will feature partners of the Eastern Arizona Trails Collaborative (EATC), their projects and partnerships, and will spotlight the Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles and Tread Lightly. Let’s celebrate our trails, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, and organizations and agencies that help to maintain them in our beautiful White Mountains! For more information about the event, or if you’d like to help make the day a success by volunteering for set up the day before or activities the day of the celebration, please call 402-660-6149 or email at mreenhelm@gmail.com.

And don’t forget the TRACKS General Meeting and Potluck will be from 4:30 to 5:30 at the Nature Center. Bring a dish to share and your own beverage. Plates, utensils and water will be provided.

ANNUAL SPRING HIGHWAY CLEANUP

- **May 14th** - TRACKS - Meet at 8:00 am at the Fun Park to clean up mile 347 to 348 (Hwy 260).
- **May 16th** - Nature Center - Meet at 8:00 am at the Lakeside Forest Service Office to clean up mile 349 to 350 (Hwy 260)

For both dates wear a hat, closed toed shoes, long pants, sunscreen & gloves, and bring water. Please consider helping on both days. Lynn Krigbaum will be serving her delicious muffins after each clean-up. For more information call Lynn at 928 242-8814 or Gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) *by Jerry Good*

Ten trail workers attended the trail tool sharpening event at the end of March. All the tools were sharpened and cleaned and ready to go but the first day of trail work was cancelled due to a snowstorm. We are back at work now on improving the Juniper Ridge Trail and will be there for a few more weeks. On April 8th, our crew enjoyed watching the partial solar eclipse!

The Juniper Ridge area suffered during the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire but life is returning. During April’s trail work, there were a number “baby” Ponderosas along the trail – some very close, so the crew redirected the trail.

If you would like to meet some great folks who are dedicated trail workers please join us on Monday mornings.



First day of Trail Crew was also Eclipse Day!



Keeping our 'baby' ponderosas safe off the trails



The crew even installs new gate hardware



The Blue Ridge Trail is next, as our contractor has started cutting the shortcut trail & has completed over a mile!

TRACKS BIKING *by Kelly Milligan*

The time has come to start up the weekly rides. My name is Kelly Milligan and I have volunteered to be your "fearless" leader for the rides this year. I have pretty big cleats to fill following Nick! Here are the guidelines: there will be a one-time release to sign good for the entire season, there will be a head count at the beginning of each ride and if you plan to deviate from the intended route let the leader know so that you are not listed as MIA, and the slower riders will not be left behind. As Nick would say, wear a helmet, make sure your bike is in good working condition, and bring plenty of water. Rides will be at 9:00 am Tuesdays from Fire Escape/East Lane, Thursdays from the intersection of Forest Roads 185 and 283, and Saturdays from the intersection of Forest Roads 183 (Sky Hi Rd) and 7. Our first ride is **Thursday, May 2**; clipped in and ready to ride at **9:00am**! Feel free to contact me with suggestions or requests. milligankelly@yahoo.com !:

TRACKS HIKING GROUPS

Hiking season has officially begun! The Board has updated the TRACKS Liability Form and we now have written Hiking Guidelines, which will be given to all Hike Leaders. We care about your safety so please know your limitations; bring extra water, snacks, and anything else you need for your safety and comfort. Trail distances are not always exact and the difficulty rating is subjective. For more information about the trails, go to our website and click on Take a Hike. If dogs are allowed (depending on the hiking group), they must 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, but you are welcome to drive your own vehicle to trailheads. All hikes are subject to change/cancellation based on weather or circumstances beyond our control. For any questions, please contact the hike leader/coordinator: David Samala at dssamala@yahoo.com for Monday Mid-



Day Trailblazers and Mid-Morning Saturday hikes; Heather Steiner at steinerhm@aol.com for Tuesday Trekkers, or Lynn Krigbaum at 928 242-8814 for Up the Hill Gang hikes.

MONDAY MID-DAY TRAILBLAZERS *by David Samala*

Monday Mid-Day Trailblazers will meet at 1:15pm for 1:30pm departure at the WME Village 8 Movie theater in Lakeside at the southwest end of the parking lot near the white donation box unless otherwise noted in a hike description below. Contact David Samala at dssamala@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

- May 6:** **Flume Connector**, 5 miles. Difficulty-Moderate.
- May 13:** **Ice Cave**, 5 miles. Difficulty-Moderate.
- May 20:** **Show Low Meadow Bluff Trail**, 3-mile loop. Difficulty-Easy. Meet at 1:15 at the Bluff Trail Barn 560 S Rock Ridge Road in Show Low
- May 27:** **Old Hatchery and Springs Trails**, 5 miles. Difficulty-Easy/Moderate. Meet at 1:45 at the Old Hatchery trailhead in the AZ Game & Fish parking lot in Pinetop.
- June 3:** **Show Low lake Trail**, Head out on this 2.5-mile out-and-back trail. Elevation gain 52 ft, Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of 45 min to complete.
- June 10:** **Woodland Lake Outer Loop**, Difficulty- Moderate, Length 3.7 mi Elevation gain 232 ft Route type Loop. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 h 20 min to complete. Meet at Woodland Lake Park at the big Ramada #2 1:15pm- 1:30pm departure.

LOW IMPACT TUESDAY TREKKERS TEAM: TOGETHER EACH ACHIEVES MORE *by Heather Steiner*

The term “low impact hiking” means that our hikes are shorter than other hiking groups, and we try to avoid challenging hills. Our hikes are between 2 and 4 miles, usually about 3. It’s an interesting experience to lead a hike, so we are always on the lookout for volunteer leaders. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Heather Steiner, 480-620-1676. **Please meet at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the parking lot on the south side of the Pinetop McDonalds.**



- May 14** Turkey Track Trail at Woodland Lake Park, about 2.5 miles
- May 21** Country Club No.632, about 3.5 miles
- May 28** NO ESTABLISHED HIKE Given a day after Memorial Day
- June 4** Billy Creek Connector and Blue Ridge Trail about 2.5 miles
- June 11** Springs trail No. 633 about 3.5 miles
- June 18** Show Low Bluff Trail, about 2.5 miles. Meet at 8:00am at the trail head along White Mountain Rd, Highway 260, in Show Low
- June 25** West Fork Trail No. 94 Meadow near Greer: 1.5 miles long with limited parking, may hike another short trail nearby.



UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

by Lynn Krigbaum

- May 1** **Old Hatchery and Springs Trails**, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet in the parking lot near former China Express* at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share \$2. Alternatively, meet us at the Old Hatchery trailhead at AZ Game & Fish parking lot in Pinetop at 8AM.
- May 8** **Show Low Meadow Bluff Trail**, 3 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at the Bluff Trail Barn visible from Hwy. 260, 560 S. Rock Ridge Rd., Show Low at 7:45AM.
- May 15** **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. Meet in the parking lot near former China Express* at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share \$2. Alternatively, meet us at the Country Club Trailhead at 8AM.
- May 22** **Buena Vista Trail**, 6 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet in the parking lot near Arby's at 680 W. Deuce of Clubs in Show Low at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share is \$3. Alternatively, meet us at the Buena Vista trail head off AZ60 and FS300 at 8AM.
- May 29** **Land of Pioneers Short Loop**, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Meet in the back parking lot of the Social Security office 2500 E. Cooley in Show Low at 7:45AM. Suggested ride-share is \$5.
- June 5** **Green's Peak**, 5 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Suggested ride-share \$5. Meet in the parking lot near the former China Express* by 6:45.
- June 12** **Osprey Trail to the Ice Cave trail**. 5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Suggested ride-share \$3. Meet in the parking lot near the former China Express* by 6:45.
- June 19** **Baldy either the East or West trail**. 6 miles. Difficulty 3. Suggested ride-share \$5. Meet in the parking lot near the former China Express* by 6:45am.
- June 26** **Short loop of Los Burros**. 6 miles. Difficulty 2.5. Suggested ride-share \$5. Meet in the parking lot near the former China Express *by 6:45.

**Former China Express, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop (White Mountain Village).*

White Mountain Happenings

- May 1 Audubon Society Meeting
- May 5 Nature Center hike-Forest Ecology
- May 11 Nature Center hike-Forest Hiking & Well Being
- May 11 Nature Center - Our own Ron Miller's "Seeking Adventure in Antarctica" Presentation at 6 PM
- May 11 Show Low Main Street Farmers Market
- May 18 Nature Center hike-Mushrooms & Edible Plants
- May 19 Nature Center 20th Anniversary Celebration
- May 25 Nature Center hike-Birds of White Mountains
- May 25 Taylor Trapper Days
- May 25 Nature Center Yard Sale 8:00 to 3:00
- Raptor shows every day except Monday at 3:00 promptly. Get FREE tickets up to 7 days in advance at the Nature Center.
- 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:
- White Mountain Nature Center** wmnature.org
- 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/>



MID-MORNING SATURDAY HIKES

by David Samala

First Saturday of the month hikes will meet at 10:15 am for 10:30am departure (**NOTE TIME**, it was incorrect last month) at the WME Village 8 Movie theater in Lakeside at the southwest end of the parking lot near the white donation box unless otherwise noted in a hike description. Contact David Samal at dssamala@yahoo.com with questions.

May 4: Billy Creek Connector to the Blue Ridge marker #25 up to BR trail head #1. 3.5 miles rated Easy/Moderate. Add extra 1/2 mile to Springer Mtn. Lookout tower.

There will be no Mid-Morning Saturday Hike in June due to our National Trails Day Celebration Event!

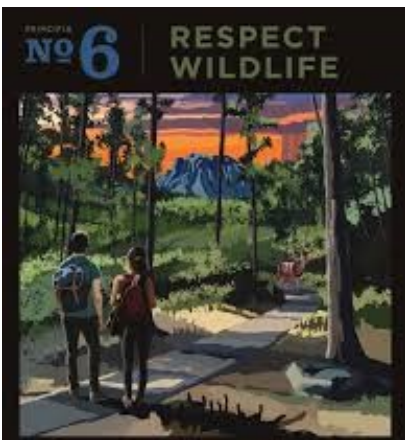
TRAILHEAD ADOPTERS

by Joan Patrick

Thanks to all the Trailhead Adopters. With hiking season ramping up be sure to enjoy the lovely weather while you doll up your kiosk area and check out the trail map boxes. Trail maps are available at the Pinetop-Lakeside Public Works building from 7:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Let me know about damage or other concerns at your kiosk at Joanpatrick933@gmail.com!

LEAVE NO TRACE

From www.LNT.org



Last June, TRACKS was honored to be the Spotlight Event by the Leave No Trace/Subaru Traveling Team. The organization accomplishes its mission by providing innovative education, skills, research, and science to help people care for the outdoors. Since then, we have been reviewing the **7 Principles of Leave No Trace** in the newsletters to keep the information front and center. The **Principles** provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors. The **Principles** can be applied anywhere — from remote wilderness areas to local parks and even in your backyard. To refresh our members’ memories, the principles we have reviewed in past newsletters are: 1) Plan Ahead & Prepare; 2) Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces; 3) Dispose of Waste Properly; 4) Leave What You Find; 5) Minimize Campfire Impact.

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE #6: RESPECT WILDLIFE

Whenever you are in an outdoor space, you are in the natural habitat of many wild animals and should work to minimize your impact on them. Human impacts on wildlife can result in negative human-wildlife interactions, aggressive animals, a decline in the ecosystem’s health, and relocated or euthanized animals. All these impacts can be avoided if visitors respect wildlife on all outdoor trips. Know the basics:

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them and give them plenty of space. They may not seem to be bothered by our company, but they can be unpredictable and harm us or themselves if they try to run away. During mating or nesting season animals are even more sensitive to our presence and may cause them to abandon their young or become more aggressive.

Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Human food is unhealthy for wildlife and regular access to it can cause animals to no longer seek their natural food and rely on us for their meals. It is important to store food and trash so that



wildlife does not have access. Plastic storage tubs may be enough to deter small animals but in bear country storing food, trash, and anything with a scent requires a locker or locked vehicle.

Control pets at all times or leave them at home. Wildlife is likely to see our furry partners as predators and may injure them in self-defense or spread rabies to them. Keep your pets on a leash or under voice control within sight at all times.

Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter. ❗

To learn more about Leave No Trace, go to their website at www.LNT.org

TRACKS IN THE COMMUNITY

by Cathy Purvis



Rain nor snow didn't stop the community in coming out in support of Show Low's MLK Day of Service on April 27th. TRACKS was there partnering with city to work on the Show Low Bluff Trail. We brought the TRACKS Trailer, the trail tools and our "expertise" to show "future TRACKS trail crewmembers" how to repair and maintain the trails, and trim the trees (thanks Ron!). We were able to finish the work before it started to rain. A nice lunch was provided afterwards at their City Hall.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH

by Aaron Hartzell

As signs of winter continue to fade, it is evident that summer will soon be here. As this transition happens, the Arizona Game and Fish Department wants to remind folks to stay on roads and trails to minimize the damage that can occur when people drive off these hardened surfaces. As the snow melts and new growth is coming up the ground is very vulnerable to being damaged by off road travel. When the ground is saturated, like it is in many places, it does not take much to create ruts that will be seen for years and often entices others to take this user created route. The Department also wants to remind folks that this is a great time to get out and see wildlife. As new growth comes up, wildlife moves back onto their summer range to take advantage of the nutritious resources that can be found there. They do this in preparation for giving birth and raising their next generation. During this process, please remember to leave baby wildlife alone. People may think that babies have been abandoned when the mothers have left them hidden for the day and will be returning to get them at a later time. If people remove babies their chance of survival can often go down. The best thing to do is leave the baby wildlife alone. When you go out and enjoy our wildlife and wild places, please remember to do so responsibly. azgfd.com ❗



WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY & RAPTOR CENTER GRAND OPENING

The White Mountain Nature Center is celebrating their 20th anniversary and the grand opening of the new Raptor Center on May 19th. It’s an Open House, with the theme “Past, Present and Future”. A historical slide show will run continuous from 2 pm – 4 pm. Raffle Tickets of over \$1,200 worth of merchandise and a chance to win a “Funky Experience” are available at the Nature Center.



APACHE SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST *by Stephanie Rainey*

Who’s ready for camping season? I know I sure am. If you want to reserve developed campground sites, go to Recreation.gov. Availability schedules are released in late April, early May for reserving developed campground sites across the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and campground sites fill up quickly. One local favorite camping area is Lewis Canyon group site. It’s a large single group campsite located near Pinedale. It’s a great facility for large family gatherings and groups as it can accommodate up to 150 guests. Vault toilets and a picnic area are provided but there are no hookups. You can only camp at Lewis Canyon if you have a reservation through Reservation.gov and there is a cost to camp. Another popular area on the Lakeside ranger district is Los Burros dispersed campground. This campground is first come, first served and no reservations are needed. There is no cost to camp. There is a vault toilet and 12 numbered sites with fire rings. There are no garbage services here so adhere to Leave No Trace principles and pack in/out your trash. There is no water source here so bring your own water. Please observe the 14-day stay limit. Please safely enjoy the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and report any violations you may see to the Lakeside Ranger District at 928-368-2100 or to the Sheriff’s Department (Navajo County: 928-524-4050 or Apache County: 928-337-4321). <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf> and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/fire>. 🗨️

TRACKS SCHEDULE			
GROUP	DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew	All Summer	Beautify the Trails. Meet at 7:45am at the Show Low Arby’s/Safeway parking lot until May 13 then meet at Blue Ridge Trail Head 2.	To volunteer, subscribe and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew https://trackswhitemountains.org/about-contact/volunteer/
Biking	First ride May 2	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 9:00am	To receive biking information visit www.trackswhitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Kelly Milligan at milligankelly@yahoo.com
Monday Mid-Morning Trailblazers Tuesday Trekkers Up the Hill Gang Mid-Morning Saturday Hikes	May 6 May 14 May 1 May 4	Hikes of various distances and difficulty. See pages 2,3 & 4 for descriptions.	To receive hiking information by email, tick the checkbox for hiking on the Become a Member form For maps, newsletters, and additional information, please visit the TRACKS website: https://trackswhitemountains.org/



BOARD MEETING	Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 PM May 9	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd
GENERAL MEETING	Second Saturday of the month at 8 AM May 11	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	Sal & Teresa's on Woodland Road in Lakeside (last time for the season). Potluck meeting at the Nature Center on June 1 (as part of National Trails Day). Potluck meetings at Woodland Lake will begin in July.



958 S. Woodland Road
 Lakeside, AZ 85929
www.trackswitemountains.org

