



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY – JUNE 1st

by Mreen Helm

National Trails Day Celebration is just around the corner! TRACKS and the White Mountain Nature Center are hosting a community-wide event on **JUNE 1st, from 8:00 – 1:30 at the Nature Center**. Help celebrate the trails and learn about the Eastern Arizona Trails Collaborative (easternaztrails Collaborative.net) and Leave No Trace Principles (lnt.org). Activities include a Back Country Horsemen Cowboy BREAKFAST, guided nature HIKES, Outdoor Recreation YARD SALE, educational PRESENTATIONS, family-oriented ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION booths, VENDORS, RAFFLES and much more! For more information or to volunteer, please email mreenhelm@gmail.com or call 402-660-6149. 🐾

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.

TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) - THE BLUE RIDGE SHORTCUT LOOP

by Jerry Good



Work continues on the new Loop Trail at Blue Ridge. We expect the work will continue for the next three weeks getting it diamonded and ready for a nice enjoyable hike. After that, we will work on the Los Burros trail to get it ready for the fall bike race. Please come out and join us each Monday morning at 7:30, weather permitting! 🐾

TRACKS BIKING

by Kelly Milligan

Biking season began on May 2 and will continue through the summer on the Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday schedule. 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) and 7. Bikes need to be in condition and ready to ride. Helmets are required. Our rides are social, not competitive, with distances determined by the leader and depending on who shows up. If you are not yet on the mountain bike list, please send an email to Suzanne Milligan at suzanne.milligan@yahoo.com. 🐾

TRACKS HIKING GROUPS

TRACKS now has **four organized hikes**. Trail distances are not always exact, and the difficulty rating is subjective. We care about your safety so please know your limitations; bring extra water, snacks, and anything else you need for your safety and comfort. TRACKS waivers are signed prior to each hike. For information about the trails, including downloadable maps, go to our website and click on Take a Hike. Depending on the hiking group, 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. We try to carpool/rideshare to save gas and the planet, 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. Pace for Monday Mid-Day Trailblazer hikes is 2.5 to 3 mph. Are you interested in leading a hike? Contact David Samala at dssamala@yahoo.com for Monday Mid-Day Trailblazers and Mid-Morning Saturday hikes, contact Heather Steiner at steinerhm@aol.com for Tuesday Trekkers, or contact Lynn Krigbaum at 928-242-8814 for Up the Hill Gang hikes. 🐾

MONDAY MID-DAY TRAILBLAZERS

by David Samala

(Hiking pace is 2.5 to 3 MPH)

June 3: Show Low Lake Trail 2.5 mile out-and-back trail. Elevation gain 52 feet. Considered an easy route average taking about 45 min to complete.

June 10: Woodland Lake Outer Loop 3.7 miles with elevation gain 232 feet. Moderate difficulty taking an average of 80 minutes. Meet at Woodland Lake Park at the big Ramada #2 at 1:15pm for 1:30pm departure.

June 17: Buena Vista Trail #637 9.7 miles; short loop 2.5 miles. Moderate difficulty. The trail is hilly with seven major uphill sections. One of the lower elevation trails of the White Mountain Trail System.

June 24: Timber Mesa 7.5-mile loop with elevation gain of 300 feet. Moderate difficulty. Easy access to great views as well as sights of historical significance.



Hike leader David and other hikers enjoying this season's new hikes

NEW MID-MORNING SATURDAY HIKES

by David Samala

Once-A-Month Saturday hikes meet at 10:15am for 10:30am departure at the WME Village 8 Movie Theatre in Lakeside at the southwest end of the parking lot near the white donation box unless otherwise noted in a hike description. Contact David Samala at dssamala@yahoo.com with questions.

*June 1 **Saturday: Ice Cave**, CANCELLED DUE TO NATIONAL TRAIL DAY. Come join us there!

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.

- 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 8:00 am at the trail head on White Mountain Road, Highway 260, in Show Low.
 - June 25:** West Baldy. About 3 miles out and back along the Colorado River, relatively level.

 - July 2:** Segment of Los Burros Trail No. 631. 3 miles in and out.
 - July 9:** Indian Springs. About 3 miles in and out.
 - July 16:** Springs Trail #632 off Sky High Road. About 3.6 miles in and out.
 - July 23:** Timber Mesa #636 off Porter Mountain Road. 3 miles.
 - July 30:** West Fork, #94 near Greer. 3 miles avoiding the steep portion
- 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 unless otherwise noted. 📍**

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

by Lynn Krigbaum

- June 5:** Green’s Peak 5 miles rated 2.5. Meet at the former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5.
 - June 12:** Osprey to Ice Cave 5 miles. Meet at the former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$3.
 - June 19:** East or West Baldy 6 miles rated 3. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5.
 - June 26:** Los Burros Short Loop. 6 miles rated 2.5. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5.
- *China Express, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop (White Mountain Village).

NOTE Time: All hikes meet at 6:45 for 7:00 departure.



July 3: Chipmunk. 6 miles rated 2. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$3.

July 10: Thompson Trail. 5.5 miles rated 2. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5.

July 17: Crossover between Baldy East and West. 5 miles rated 2. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5.

July 24: Land of the Pioneers. 5 miles rated 2.5. Meet at Social Security Admin at 2500 E Cooley Street (off Penrod/Porter Mtn Roads) in Show Low. Suggested ride share \$5.

July 31: 4 Springs/Lake Mountain Lookout. 5 miles rated 2.5. Meet at former China Express.* Suggested ride share \$5 ride.

*China Express, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop White Mountain Village

All hikes meet at 6:45 for 7:00 departure.

White Mountain Happenings

June Nature Center/AZ Science Center Camps sold out. Waitlist!

June 1 National Trails Day Nature Center

June 1 White Mountain Symphony Show Low June 5 White Mountain Audubon Meeting at Nature Center

June 8 Travel Writer Roger Naylor Nature Center * See below

June 11 Conversations with Council Pinetop Coffee House

June 13+ Lavender Bloom & Wine Event Red Rock

June 14 Flag Day Ceremony Pinetop Lakeside Town Hall

June 21 White Mountain Bike Rally

June 21-23 Balloon Festival Mountain Meadow Park

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: www.wmnature.org

Pinetop/Lakeside: <https://www.visitpinetoplakeside.com>

Show Low Chamber of Commerce: www.showlowchamber.com/

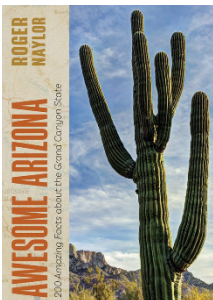
Snowflake/Taylor Chamber of Commerce: <https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>

White Mountain Audubon Society: <http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/>

White Mountain Apache Tribe: <http://whitemountainapache.org/>

TRAVEL WRITER ROGER NAYLOR AT NATURE CENTER

By Roger Naylor



“I’ll get to experience some of Arizona’s diversity this Saturday. After giving a morning talk in the desert in Chandler, I’ll drive to Pinetop, nestled in the White Mountains. It’s been many years since I’ve given a presentation at this beautiful educational facility and I’ll be thrilled to back sharing my love for this astonishing state. I look forward to spending some time in the lush high country.”

Author Roger Naylor will present “200 Amazing Facts about the Grand Canyon State” on June 8th at 6 pm at the White Mountain Nature Center. Come early to get a good seat!

LEAVE NO TRACE

by Cathy Purvis

We are continuing with Principle #6 of our LNT series. For more information, go to LNT.org, and definitely attend our National Trails Day event on June 1st at the Nature Center. We have planned a *Leave No Trace* walk featuring the 7 Principles of LNT and trail etiquette.

Respect Wildlife — continued

The White Mountains is home to incredible variety of wild animals! We must always remember we are in their habitat and should work to minimize our 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.

Please follow these basic tips whenever you are outdoors;

- Observe wildlife from a distance
- Avoid critical and sensitive habitat, especially during breeding and nesting seasons
- Never feed wildlife, no matter how hungry they may look
- Store and dispose of food and waste properly
- Never chase or try to touch animals unless they are sick or injured (Call Arizona Game & Fish)
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home
- Do not disturb animals for a better look or a good photo



Our thanks to the Carpenter Nature Center, Hasting MN

The “thumb technique” is a great way to ensure you are providing enough space when you do encounter a wild animal. You simply give a thumbs up with your arm fully extended. Close one eye and try to completely cover the animal with your thumb. If you can still see them, you are too close. This technique works because it is proportional. The larger the animal, the farther away you will have to be to successfully complete it. Try it the next time you are walking in the woods.

APACHE SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

by Stephanie Rainey

Electric bikes or “e-bikes”, class 1,2&3 including pedal assist, are presently classified as motor vehicles by the USDA Forest Service. As such, e-bikes are permitted only on trails and roads designated as open to motor vehicles when on lands managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. For example, you can ride your E-Bike on forest roads 182 or 185 but trails such as Country Club, Springs and Los Burros are considered non-motorized where all e-bikes are prohibited. The reason there is a designation of non-motorized trails is to create pathways for forest visitors that provide peaceful and environmentally friendly ways to explore nature for hiking, mountain biking, birding, and horseback riding. Electric bikes have their place on public lands too. They provide a new way for people to experience and explore the outdoors. When sharing our public lands with other users, please be considerate while riding your e-bike and stay on trails and roads open to motor vehicles. Further information regarding Forest Service management of e-bikes can be accessed at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/e-bikes> 🐾



TRACKS SCHEDULE

GROUP	DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew	All summer	Beautify the Trails. Meeting at 7:30 am.	To volunteer, subscribe and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew https://trackswitemountains.org/about-contact/volunteer/
Biking	All Sumer	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 9:00am	To receive biking information visit www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Suzanne Milligan at suzanne.milligan@yahoo.com
Monday Mid-Morning Trailblazers Tuesday Trekkers Up the Hill Gang Mid-Morning Saturday Hikes	All Summer	Hikes of various distances and difficulty. See pages 2, 3, and 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://trackswitemountains.org/
BOARD MEETING	Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 PM June Meeting – May 30 th July Meeting – July 11th	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	New Location: Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd
GENERAL MEETING	National Trails Day – June 1 st at 4:30 pm Potluck July 13 th meeting – 8 AM Potluck	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	June 1st – Potluck at the Nature Center In July New Location: Woodland Lake Park Ramada breakfast potluck



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www.trackswitemountains.org