



April 2017 Newsletter

March TRACKS Meeting was held Saturday, March 11, at Darbi's in Pinetop at 8:am. Approximately 29 people attended and Kathy Penrod was introduced.

Lynn passed an envelope for donations to have TRACKS be a sponsor for Walk for the Woods.

An envelope was also passed for donations for a memorial bench for Biff Golladay.

A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around to help at the Pinetop-Lakeside Easter egg hunt at Mountain Meadows April 1.

Kathryn Melsted was presented a special award representing TRACKS' appreciation for her 8 years of service as TRACKS Treasurer and Board Member.

Dave McCullough was introduced as the new TRACKS Treasurer

Announcements:

The Regional Science Fair was held March 4 in Snowflake. TRACKS donated to help with the winners' expenses when they go to Phoenix.

There will be another Star Lab Astronomy Night at the White Mountain Nature Center on July 29.

Linda Pearse announced that there would be a trip to the San Juan Islands in Washington State. Any interested members can contact Linda at 929-739-4301.

Following the meeting Ruth Nelson led a hike around Woodland Lake Park and Lynn Krigbaum led a group cross country skiing.

Trail Crew: Trails are still too muddy for trail crew work.

This article appeared in the April 2016 Newsletter, and we think it merits repeating:

TRACKS Urges: Keep Your Toes Dry. Now that Spring finally seems to be springing, folks are ready to get out of the house and enjoy our trails. Winter is over! We are ready! Unfortunately for hikers, bikers and horseback riders, in many places, the trails are not ready for us.

TRACKS urges all trail users to be aware of trail conditions and stay off trails until they dry out. Especially at this time of year, watch out for mud and standing water. Even if part of the trail is dry, there may be water and mud in low places and near melting snow banks.

This is especially a concern for horseback users of the trails. When your horse walks on a muddy trail, it leaves deep footprints known as “post holes”. Unfortunately, when the trail does dry out, those post holes will be left behind and in our clay soils they will harden almost into concrete, making the trail rough or even unusable for others. Walking on a muddy, wet trail is not fun for horses or people. Please keep your trail use to those trails that are firm and dry.



Woodland Lake Park has a wonderful, all-weather paved one mile trail around the lake. It's a great place to walk or bike while waiting for the rest of the trail system to dry out. Then we all can safely enjoy the rest of the beautiful 200+ miles of local trails. Check out TRACKS and trail choices on www.trackswitemountains.org

Forest Thinning in Timber Mesa Area: Lorna McNeil-Cox has informed us that there is an active thinning project occurring now on Timber Mesa. They are avoiding the trail as much as possible and even trying not to skid across it. The Forest Service is installing warning signs at the trailheads and on the trail in the section being thinned. It is strongly recommended that users avoid the Timber Mesa trail until the work is completed.

Contact Lorna McNeil-Cox at the Apache Sitgreaves Forest Service, Lakeside Ranger District if you have any questions. 928-368-6476

The winter Up the Hill Gang went on about a 5 mile hike in the Petrified Forest National Park February 15 lead by two experienced volunteer guides. The area is home to abundant petrified wood formations, petroglyphs, and other ruins from prehistoric people who lived there unknown to us but with remnants of their lives. The remnants include projectile points, pottery and messages in stone. As time passed, they settled in and began farming. They built



clues to the past.

pueblos and traded with distant people. Around 1380 they started moving away; it is likely years of drought forced them away. Over 1,000 archaeological sites have been found in the park from one room shelters to multiple 100-room pueblos. The Petrified Forest is truly a Triassic Treasure holding vital

Renaming Park across from the Pinetop-Lakeside Library:

The Town of Pinetop-Lakeside intends to name the small park area across the street from the library (where the Christmas tree was this year) the "Jack Barker Memorial Park". I am reaching out to you as friends of Jack to ask for your support in this project. We will be coming up with a plan that hopefully will include a sign, benches, and possible picnic tables. This plan will take a bit of time to come together but there will be opportunities for you to sponsor some of these things. My vision is for this to be a place where people can get a library book, a picnic lunch and enjoy the beauty of our community and all the people who have made it what it is.

I would ask that you pass this on to others who I either don't have email addresses for or didn't think of - there are so many - and call or email me with any comments, suggestions, or concerns. You can reach me best on my cell phone - (928) 205-8281. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support.

Regards,
Stephanie Irwin
Mayor, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside

Donations may be sent to the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside with "Jack Barker Memorial Park" in the memo line. Address is [958 S. Woodland Road Lakeside, AZ 85929](#)

For anyone who didn't see this note from Nick Lund – enjoy ...

Two Desert Stories: As Peggy and I were biking in the desert.....two different occasions we rounded a turn and there was about a 1.5-2 ft. snake stretched across the trail about 2 feet in front of us, with no time to stop, we rode over it....me over the tail area and Peggy over the head area....fortunately it was a non-poisonous....certainly got us wide awake and our blood flowing.



Another day, as we rounded a curve in another area, there was a small rattlesnake quietly waiting at the entrance to a hole in the ground several feet off the trail....I was in the lead and just as I got there, the snake's breakfast arrived.....a ground squirrel came out and was instantly bitten..... I stopped to see what happened.....the squirrel walked, drunkenly, about 2 feet and collapsed.....a National Geographic moment.

With the warmer than average temps here, we are watching closely for our snaky friends.

Walk for the Woods News



Thanks to all who have donated to the TRACKS Sponsorship fund. We are almost there so the envelope will be passed for the last time at the April General Meeting. If you are not attending the meeting, and want to donate, please send a check written to TRACKS with W4W in the memo line to Lynn Krigbaum, [2254 S Pine Lake Road, Pinetop, AZ 85935](mailto:lynna@woodlandlakepark.com) and I will get it to our Treasurer, Dave McCullough. Thanks, as always, for your support of Woodland Lake Park and the White Mountain Nature Center.

Registration material and information for the Walk for the Woods will be available May 1st. If you have a business or group that would like to be a sponsor for the event, please contact Lynn at [\(928\)242-8814](tel:9282428814).

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 FROM 830AM-NOON

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

FINANCING PRE K-12 EDUCATION IN ARIZONA

Arizona Town Hall is implementing a new format in 2017. There will be one state-level Town Hall, with multiple community town halls around the State to contribute their inputs to the state level discussion. A community town hall on this topic will be held in the White Mountains region on Friday, June 9 from 830am - noon at the Whipple School Auditorium, 1350 N Central Avenue, Show Low.

Town Hall is an excellent way for communities and individuals to provide input and recommendations on critical topics that are important to the future of Arizona. This new format will enable more statewide participation in the discussion.

To register for the White Mountains Community Town Hall that will focus on Financing Pre K-12 Education, please email your name, phone, email and paper mail address to lundaz@cablone.net or call 928-241-2444. More detailed information will be sent later. Please share this information with others.

The following are links to news stories and videos about Keith Davis, son of John Davis, who was lost at sea, for anyone who is interested.

Reveal Story: <https://www.revealnews.org/article/he-was-supposed-to-protect-the-sea-then-he-vanished-from-his-ship/>

the NPR story Starts at about 37min on the player slider:

<https://www.revealnews.org/episodes/deadly-waters/>

AZ Republic Video:

<http://www.azcentral.com/videos/news/local/arizona/2017/03/02/sea-mystery-father-says-he-has-no-doubt-his-son-murdered/98664932/>

AZ Republic Story:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2017/03/03/father-remembers-keith-davis-fisheries-observer-lost-near-peru/98502954/>

A group of TRACKS members who winter in the Phoenix area began hiking together about 15 years ago all over the Valley. They were joined by another group of hikers from Apache Wells in Mesa. Nick Lund, who spends much of the winter in the Gold Canyon area near the Superstition Mountains, has led this group on hikes for the past two years. This year, he and Peggy outdid themselves by leading the group on a hike near their house for a little more than 7 miles, then hosting a wonderful gourmet Mexican lunch at their home.



Calendar of Events

March 25, Saturday	Walk for the Woods Committee Meeting	7:30 AM at Darbi's
April 1, Saturday	<u>Easter Egg Hunt at Pinetop-Lakeside</u>	10:00m AM Mountain Meadows
April 5, Wednesday	<u>Audubon Monthly Meeting:</u> Dan Groebner from Arizona Fish & Game will present the program.	6:30 PM Pinetop Lakeside Council Chambers. Everyone welcome to attend
April 6 Thursday	<u>TRACKS Monthly Board Meeting</u>	1:00 PM at The Nature Center on Woodland Rd. TRACKS members welcome
April 8 Saturday	<u>TRACKS Monthly Meeting</u> Arrive early to order breakfast	8:00 AM Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop
April 29, Saturday	Walk for the Woods Committee Meeting	7:30 AM at Darbi's
June 3, Saturday	National Trails Day: The Walk for the Woods	7:30 AM at the Nature Center
June 3, Saturday	National Trails Day Potluck Dinner and meeting	5:00 PM at Woodland Lake Park in Large Ramada
Mondays	Trail Crew Work days will take place as weather permits	Contact Nick to get on mailing list for times and meeting places: lundaz@cablone.net or call Liz at 928-537-1978
Wednesdays	<u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</u> continue through the winter. Please contact Heather Steiner for more information at steinerhm@aol.com or call her cell phone 480-620-1676	A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May. The summer hikes are coordinated by Jim Meeker and he will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication.



425 S. Woodland Rd
Lakeside, AZ 85935

www.trackswhitemountains.org

