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## **February 2017 Newsletter**

**January TRACKS Meeting:** Kathryn Melsted called the TRACKS January breakfast meeting to order at 8:00 AM. About 25 people attended the meeting held at Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. Bill Bens was introduced. He will be a new trailhead adopter for the Buena Vista trail. Kathryn, who is the trailhead adopter coordinator, expressed thanks to those who are currently serving and talked about trailheads needing to be adopted; Liz Jernigan adopted Panorama and Arlene Nelson adopted Ice Cave and Jan Newton adopted Timber Mesa.



Kathryn announced that the upcoming Science Fair may start as early as Feb 4th and be in February and March for 1st grade through high school. Winners of the regional fair are to go to statewide in April. Kathryn passed around an envelope for donations to fund student travel expenses. Judges will be needed for the local and regional fairs.

Liz Jernigan announced that volunteers are needed for a Game & Fish study of cormorants. Anyone interested in this project can call Dave Cagel at AZ Game & Fish.

Steve Rodney announced Sue's Crew Walk for Breast Cancer on May 13.

Following the meeting, Ruth Nelson led a walk around Woodland Lake Park.

**Trail Care Program:** Trail work will resume when the weather allows.

**Value of Volunteer Work:** An independent organization calculates the value of volunteer work for Arizona. Based on their figures, TRACKS trail work for 2016 was valued at \$26,460. and the value of other TRACKS members' volunteer time was about \$371,473. Another most commendable year of volunteer activities by TRACKS members.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 9 FROM 830AM-NOON**

**COMMUNITY TOWN HALL FINANCING PREK-12 EDUCATION IN**

**ARIZONA:** Arizona Town Hall is starting a new format in 2017. There will be one state-level Town Hall, with multiple community town halls from around the State that will 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 8:30am - noon. The location is being determined.

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.

If you would like to register for the White Mountains Community Town Hall that will focus on Financing PreK-12 Education, please email your name, email address, and phone to [lundaz@cablone.net](mailto:lundaz@cablone.net) or call 928-241-2444. More detailed information will be sent later.

**Petrified Forest Hiking:** Possible interest to members who aren't skiers: During January and continuing into February, Gary and Connie Grube are guiding hikes in the Petrified Forest National Park back country. Hikes will be every Saturday and Sunday, most starting at 10 am, and ranging from 4 to 8 miles in length. Schedule and details should appear on the Park website and Facebook page. Also check calendar of events below.



<https://www.nps.gov/pefo/index.htm>

Routes may be muddy so dress appropriately.

Interested hikers should contact Gary Grube at [grgrube@gmail.com](mailto:grgrube@gmail.com) or call or text at 928-368-3821 if you have any questions.

## **TRACKS 2016 Annual Report**

Arizona's White Mountains offer outstanding outdoor opportunities, great beauty and diverse wildlife habitats. 200+ miles of non-motorized trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are provided by cooperation between the US Forest Service, AZ Game & Fish and TRACKS, a 350+ member volunteer organization that maintains & builds the White Mountains Trail System. When formed in the late 1980's, TRACKS was an ad-hoc committee of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. A few years ago, TRACKS became a 501.C.3 non-profit. The WMTS attracts hikers, equestrians, trail runners, mountain bikers, bird watchers, photographers, & cross country skiers, supports the regional economy, and promotes healthy lifestyles. In the past 5 years, 70,000+ White Mountains Trail System brochures were distributed by TRACKS.

In 2016, TRACKS trail crew worked 1159 hours on: Country Club, Chipmunk, Panorama, Four Springs, Los Burros, Juniper Ridge, Old Hatchery, Los Caballos, Lookout, Flume, Show Low Bluff, General Crook, Woodland Lake, Blue Ridge High School, & White Mountain Nature Center trails. 9500+ blue diamonds were removed and replaced by white, reflective trail marker diamonds. [http://independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time) valued AZ volunteer work at \$22.83/hr.; so, TRACKS 2016 trail work was valued at \$26,460 as support to the USFS, regional community, & White Mountains Trail System users.

TRACKS members also reported volunteering 16,271 hours (valued at \$ 371,473) at events & other community service activities, including: Tour of the White Mountains (TWM), Walk for the Woods, White Mountain Nature Center, Catalina Bighorn Sheep Restoration, Cool Running, Summit Regional Medical Center Health Fair, Love Kitchen, Humane Society, Wildlife Festival, highway cleanups, & Sunrise Adaptive Sports. In addition to the valuation of TRACKS total volunteering (\$397,933), trail crew breakfasts & monthly meetings at local restaurants, the White Mountains Trail System, TWM and triathlons provide major economic benefits to the White Mountains region; for example, the 2016 21st annual Tour of the White Mountains had 700 registered riders, many supporters and 140 volunteers who used local businesses. Epic Rides donated \$7000+ to Summit Medical Center, Navajo County Sheriff's Auxiliary, Kachina Ham Radio Club, Love Kitchen, TRACKS, & other organizations.

TRACKS members' volunteering includes: 2 elected to Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council, 3 AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee (vice chair), 2 International Federation of Red Cross Emergency Response Team, AZ Governor's Youth Commission, AZ State Committee on Trails chair, AZ Historical Society, USFS Nat'l Resources Working Group - 4 Forest Restoration Initiative Shareholders, 2 Pinetop-Lakeside Planning & Zoning Commission, Pinetop-Lakeside Ad & Promo Committee vice chair, Navajo County Foster Care Review Board, AZ Court Appointed Special Advocate, 31st Annual AZ Federal Tax Institute chair, AZ Society of Public Accountants- Chair Life & Honorary Member Comm., 10 TRACKS Board, NE AZ Vocational Institute of Technology Bd, 3 Books for Kids AZ Bd, 4 Save Our Park Bd (pres, vp & treas.), Summit Regional Medical Center: Patient Satisfaction Committee & 2 Patient & Family Advisory Council, White Mountains Land Trust Bd, 4 White Mountains Nature Center Bd, WM Community Garden Bd, 2 Walk for the Woods (treas.), TWM volunteer

coordinator, 2 WM Humane Society Bd, 3 Love Kitchen, Pinetop-Lakeside Sr Center Bd, P-L People's Vision Comm. treas., Pinetop Lakes Ass'n Bd, Show Low Sierra Pines HOA Bd, 3 WM Chorale Bd & treas., WM Conservation League Bd, 2 WM Audubon Bd (sec'y & vp), WM Gem & Mineral, AZ Minerological Society, 2 Sunrise Adaptive Sports Fd'n Bd, American Ski Bike Ass'n Bd, 2 Navajo County Sheriff Auxiliary Volunteers, 3 Books for Kids AZ Bd, 2 WM Democrats pres. & Bd, 2 AARP Tax Aide, Pinetop-Lakeside Sr Center Tax Assistance Program, Angel Flight Bd, Art Gallery Director, High Country Art Ass'n vp, Sky High HOA & Water District Bd, AZ Trail Ass'n, Mazamas, S AZ Hiking Club, NAMI Bd, Concho Assistance Center, Pinetop Presbyterian (treas & finance comm.), Torreon HOA, Foothills Reserve HOA & Arch. Review Comm., WM Women's Club Scholarship Committee, WM Ass'n of Realtors Bd & SL Dir Functions & Educ Comm., Women's Council of Realtors Functions Comm., Pathfinders of AZ Historical Society Bd & sec'y, 2 WM Fly Fishing Club pres & sec'y, Unity Church of the White Mountains sec'y, Tucson Garden Railway Society social chair, Pima Trails Ass'n treas., Catholic Charities Bd, Rainbow Lake Friends - ADEQ Committee, Misty Mountain Water District pres., NE AZ Regional Science Fair, 4 P-L Trails, Water & Grants comm., Northfork Ranch Property Ass'n, Episcopal Church Medical Mission to Honduras, Lion's Club Eye Clinic, Pima Animal Care Center, Salvation Army. TRACKS was given a National Award for Community Service by the American Trails Association.

In 2013 TRACKS improved trail safety by installing 1500 coded diamonds every ¼ mile on all WMTS trails, gps'ing the location of each diamond, & providing a map with gps points to all regional emergency responders & dispatchers. 911 callers tell the operator the code of the nearest coded diamond so that responders can locate them readily. Grants from AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund, Navajo County and Hon Dah Resort helped cover project materials costs. Since Sep. 2013, all rescues have been completed in 45 min. or less. AZ State Parks Board voted to recommend the TRACKS Emergency Response project as a possible model for all trails in AZ, & the project was featured as a "best use" of AZ Game & Fish Heritage Fund awards in a report to the AZ Legislature.

Trail maps are free on [www.trackswitemountains.org](http://www.trackswitemountains.org) Free membership includes a free monthly newsletter. Donations, the primary financial support for TRACKS, are used for trail maintenance & organizational expenses. Donations are tax deductible, as TRACKS is a 501.C.3 non-profit. TRACKS is listed on [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com) that Amazon users may designate for donations. The Up the Hill Gang has weekly hikes, & other TRACKS activities include mountain biking, cross country skiing, & camping. We invite you to join and support a wonderful group of dedicated outdoor enthusiasts for efforts that truly make a significant difference in the White Mountains.



*(The article below was published last year and is well worth repeating for its valuable information.)*

**Snow Challenges:** Cross Country Skiing can be an excellent winter sport. Many of us have been enjoying trips this year because we are blessed with wonderful snow. However, we need to remember to be prepared. Never ski alone and be sure to tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Check in with your friend/partner/significant other when you have finished skiing. Always have a charged cell phone with you. Take water, food, a first aid kit and extra clothes with you. Cross country skiing can be such an awesome way to enjoy winter if we remember to be prepared.

Packing the Ten Essentials whenever you step into the backcountry, even on day hikes, is a good habit. True, on a routine trip you may use only a few of them. Yet you'll probably never fully appreciate the value of the Ten Essentials until you *really* need one of them.

The original Ten Essentials list was assembled in the 1930s by The Mountaineers, a Seattle-based organization for climbers and outdoor adventurers, to help people be prepared for emergency situations in the outdoors.

In 2003, the group updated the list to a "systems" approach rather than listing individual items (for example, map and compass now fall into the Navigation "system".)

The updated "systems" approach made its debut in The Mountaineers' seminal text on climbing and outdoor exploration, [\*Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills\*](#) (The Mountaineers Books), now in its eighth edition: *Updated Ten Essential "Systems"*.



1. Navigation (map and compass)
2. Sun protection (sunglasses and sunscreen)
3. Insulation (extra clothing)
4. Illumination (headlamp/flashlight)
5. First-aid supplies
6. Fire (waterproof matches/lighter/candles)
7. Repair kit and tools
8. Nutrition (extra food)
9. Hydration (extra water)
10. Emergency shelter

#### Classic Ten Essentials

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Sunglasses and sunscreen
4. Extra clothing
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Firestarter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food

#### **Two memorial benches**

have been installed on the Show Low Bluff trail, one for Keith Davis (son of John Davis) and one for Carolyn Joanne Sitas (aunt of Nick Lund). Thanks to the City of Show Low for installing the benches and to all those who donated for the memorial benches.



Joanne's Bench

### **Save Our Park News**

For the past 9 years, Save Our Park, Inc., has been raising money to assist the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside in purchasing the developed part of Woodland Lake Park.

Each year TRACKS has been a sponsor for this fundraiser called Walk for the Woods.

Because TRACKS cannot spend money on anything not trail related, we obtain that sponsorship (\$300) by "passing the hat" at TRACKS meetings and by asking people to donate by sending a check to



Save Our Park, Inc., [PO Box 2375, Lakeside, AZ 85929](mailto:PO Box 2375, Lakeside, AZ 85929). This will be the 10th and, we hope, final attempt to raise funds for Save Our Park as progress has been made over the past year and now the official letter requesting the certified Forest Service appraisal has been sent to the regional office in Albuquerque. We hope to hear that the appraisal will be done this spring. Save Our Park will pay for that appraisal. Since the real estate prices in the area have not rebounded as they have in other parts of AZ and since a parcel of open land (behind Safeway) was sold last May for less than \$3000/acre, we are hoping that appraisal will be such that the Town will be able to consider purchasing the 107 acres which is currently permitted to the Town. The SOP Board recently met with Congressman-elect Tom O'halleran. He was very supportive of our efforts and is expecting to help in any way that his office can.

Finally, a committee is needed to organize the Walk for the Woods. [The first meeting will be at Darbi's on January 28th at 7:30 AM for breakfast.](#) Please come and get involved. Email Lynn for information ([gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com)) or call (928 )242-8814).

### **Science Fair News**

[The NEAZ Regional Science Fair will be held on Saturday, March 4th at the NPC Performing Art Center.](#) TRACKS members have been judging this fair for several years. Your help is needed again this year. The judging will begin at 8:30AM. Please put this on your calendar now.

There will be many other options that day if you are not interested in being a judge. [At 9AM the Center will be open to the public to see presentations by school science clubs, student booths, robotic demonstrations, and hands on activities.](#) The judged science fair projects will be open to the public after 3PM.

TRACKS has also been a sponsor of this event in the past.

Collection of donations will be at the meeting in February. Bring money or a check made out to TRACKS with Science Fair in the memo line or send it to Lynn Krigbaum, [2254 S Pine Lake Road, Pinetop, AZ 85935](#). Thanks!!hanks!!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
January 28, Saturday	<b><u>Save Our Park First Organizational Meeting</u></b>	7:30 AM at Darbi's Call Lynn Krigbaum for info: 928-242-8814 or email gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com
January 28, Saturday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike Zuni Well Road.</u></b> Historic & Prehistoric Petroglyphs; Bizarre geological formations	10:00 AM – Lacey Point Overlook 6-7 miles
January 29, Sunday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike Einstein Road:</u></b> Historic Rainbow Forest Road; Old Trails Hwy; clam beds, beautiful petrified wood	10:00 AM – Rainbow Picnic Forest Area 4-5 miles
February 1, Wednesday	<b><u>Audubon Monthly Meeting</u></b>	No meeting in January and February
February 4, Saturday	<b><u>Eagle Program presented by Liberty Wildlife</u></b>	10:00 AM at Pinetop Office of Game and Fish
February 4, Saturday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike Flattops Circumnavigation</u></b> Petroglyphs, strewn broken pottery, dynamite shacks	10:00 AM – pullout on south side of road between mileposts 23 & 24 4-5 miles
February 5, Sunday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike Petroglyph Mesa</u></b> Petroglyphs, petroglyphs, petroglyphs	10:00 AM – Historic Route 66 pullout near Milepost 6 7-8 miles
February 9, Thursday	<b><u>TRACKS Board Meeting</u></b>	1:00 PM Parks & Rec TRACKS members welcome
February 11, Saturday	<b><u>TRACKS General Meeting</u></b>	7:30 AM at Darbi's Restaurant. Arrive early to order breakfast
February 11, Saturday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike: Jasper Forest Road</u></b> Historic CCC Project; colorful petrified wood, log bridges, petroglyphs	10:00 AM – Jasper Forest Overlook 4-5 miles
February 12, Sunday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike: Clam Beds and Red Basin</u></b> Fossil clams, panoramic views of Billings Gap; bizarre geological formations, glyphs	9:30 AM – Pullout off Blue Mesa Loop Rd 1.7 miles from main park highway 8-9 miles



February 18, Saturday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike:</u></b> <b><u>Wilderness Loop:</u></b> historic road grader, the Monument, Black Forest, petroglyphs	10:00 AM – west side of Painted Desert Inn 7-8 miles
February 19, Sunday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike: Blue Forest Trail</u></b> Fossils, unearthly colors & formations.(Narrow steep trail; dogs NOT permitted)	10:00 AM – pullout on east side of hwy at the Teepees, milepost 14 4-5 miles
February 25, Saturday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike: Zuni Well Road</u></b> Historic & prehistoric petroglyphs; bizarre geological formations	10:00 AM – Lacey Point Overlook 6-7 miles
February 26, Sunday	<b><u>Petrified Forest Hike Einstein Road:</u></b> Historic Rainbow Forest Road; Old Trails Highway, clam beds, prairie dog colony, beautiful petrified wood	10:00 AM – Rainbor Forest Picnic Area 4-5 miles
Wednesdays	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</u></b> continue through the winter. Please contact Heather Steiner for more information at <a href="mailto:steinerhm@aol.com">steinerhm@aol.com</a> 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 Debi & Steve Williams and they will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication.



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