



January 2017 Newsletter

December TRACKS Meeting: 62 people attended the December TRACKS general meeting at the Lunds'. New members and guests introduced were: Ronnie Swanson, Jeanne Maggiore, Camilla Clark, Shiela Hogan, and Paul and Norrine Williams.. Thanks to the many great TRACKS cooks, everyone ate very well and had a festive holiday get together. Winners of the best holiday socks "contest" were Kay Alderton for the women and Jim Hodge for the men.



Nick announced that Arizona Premier Trail applications will be reviewed in January by the Arizona State Committee on Trails, who will recommend their selections to AZ State Parks. TRACKS proposed the connected trails of the White Mountain Trail System.

Also, the Blue Ridge track team would like to work with TRACKS on trails in Woodland Lake Park. And Kathryn Melsted is working on improving the signage for Woodland Lake Park.

Larry Ethelbah talked about a wood industry expo during 2017, possibly at the White Mountain Nature Center. He will meet with that Board.



Kathryn Melsted showed a large map of the White Mountain Trail System which is available for a donation to TRACKS.

Nick announced that the Arizona Town Hall will have community town hall meetings on topics of importance to the State. He is working on having one in the White Mountains in 2017, the topic being funding Pre K-12 Education in Arizona. The community town halls will send their recommendations to the statewide Town

Hall for its November meeting.

TRACKS Member Needed to serve on ASCOT: The Arizona State Committee on Trails, which reports to AZ State Parks about non-motorized trails around the State, is accepting applications. TRACKS president, Nick Lund, has served two terms, which is the limit on committee service. If you would like to serve on this committee, please submit an application on the State Parks website <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html> ASCOT meets quarterly, with a conference call an option for those who cannot travel to the meeting.

TRACKS members donated at the December Meeting: TRACKS volunteers donated many books to Books for Kids AZ at their 2016 Winter meeting. BKAZ thanks them all!! Members also donated non-perishable food items for the Love Kitchen

Memorial Benches:

Two benches have been installed on the Show Low Bluff trail by the City of Show Low. One bench is in memory of Nick's aunt, Joanne Sitas, and the other bench is in memory of John Davis' son, Keith, who is missing at sea. Both benches were funded by donations. Each bench is on the lower part of the trail, facing out toward Show Low creek and the meadow so that users may rest and enjoy the beauty of the area.



Please report your Nov, Dec and any other volunteer hours, including your travel time in the hours, to Nick by December 30th (lundaz@cableone.net or 928-532-0405). This includes any hours you volunteer for TRACKS or any other volunteering you do. Also, send Nick the names of any Boards, Commissions or significant committees you serve on. This information is an important part of TRACKS annual report.

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](#). 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.krigmaum@yahoo.com) or call (928)242-8814). Thanks!!

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 meetings in January and 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!!

Arizona Mountain Lions: Mountain lions can be found throughout Arizona and are most common in rocky or mountainous terrain. Because mountain lions are shy and elusive, people do not often see them. However, the Arizona Game and Fish Department estimates the state's mountain lion population is robust and increasing at 2,500 to 3,000. Mountain lions are solitary animals with the exception of females with kittens or breeding pairs. Signs of mountain lion presence include large tracks (3-5 inches wide) without claw marks; large segmented, cylindrical droppings; food caches where a kill has been partially eaten and then covered with leaves, brush or dirt; and scrapes in soft dirt or leaf litter.



Description and habits: They have tan or reddish brown to dusky or slate gray coat, a long tail about 2/3 of body length, white underneath with a dark brown or black tip. They weigh 70-150 pounds, are 25-32 inches tall at the shoulder, 5 ½ to more than 8 feet long.

The average litter is three kittens, which are yellowish-brown with black spots. Kittens stay with their mother for about 18 months. They live up to 13 years in the wild with average of less than 6 years. They can jump 20 feet vertically and 40 feet horizontally in a single leap. Their diet is primarily deer, but also includes javelina, bighorn sheep, elk, small mammals and occasional depredation on livestock and pets.

What Attracts Them? Mountain lions most often pass on through spaces occupied by people, but they may linger awhile if they have access to food, water or shelter. Food sources found near people's homes include deer, javelina, rabbits, unsecured domestic animals or livestock. They may be attracted to drinking water like fountains, ponds or a pet's water bowl. They may hide in "cave-like" areas beneath sheds, unused buildings and storm drains, or elevated wooden patios, for shelter.

Other conditions which can cause them to enter populated areas are drought, wildfires and habituation to humans through close contact, exposure and increased development near wildlife habitat.

For more information about mountain lions and how to live with them harmoniously, visit the Arizona Game and Fish website at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/livingwith/mountainlions/>

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Time and Details |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Sunday, January 1 | Happy New Year | ENJOY 2017 |
| Thursday, January 12 | TRACKS Board Meeting | 1:00 PM at the Nature Center on Woodland Road. TRACKS members welcome |
| Saturday, January 14 | TRACKS General Meeting | 8:00 AM Darbi's Restaurant in Pinetop. Arrive early to order breakfast |
| Saturday, January 28 | Walk for the Woods Organizational Meeting | 7:30 AM Darbi's for breakfast |
| Wednesdays | Up the Hill Gang Hikes Every Wednesday morning (weather permitting) / Contact: Heather Steiner, 480-620-1676 for further information. | A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May. The summer hikes are coordinated by Debi and Steve Williams and they will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication. |
| Mondays | Trail Crew | Will resume when weather allows |



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