



March 2017 Newsletter

February TRACKS Meeting: There were 24 people in attendance at the meeting held February 13 at Darbi's in Pinetop. New members Carolyn Teel and Leslie Sloan were introduced.

White Mountains Trail System: Tom Jernigan described progress on the motorized/non-motorized map. GPS coordinates have not yet been included. Jim Snitzer announced that bike gates have been approved by the Forest Service engineer. Forest Service is to replace ATV gates with wider ones. The existing ones are to go to TRACKS for modification for hikers and bikers. Liz Wise announced a tool sharpening session at Jim Snitzer's on Feb 20 at 9 AM.

Announcements:

Lynn Krigbaum announced that the Regional Science Fair will take place on March 4 at NPC Performing Arts Center in Snowflake. Volunteers are needed to be at a TRACKS table. Judges are needed and volunteer judges will be trained. Winners will receive gift cards for assistance in traveling to State competition. Lynn passed around an envelope for donations.

Lynn described upcoming Game & Fish activities, including a cormorant study and a condor presentation at the White Mountain Nature Center.

Also, there will be a bike race in September of 2018 that will be a 4.3 mile loop in Mountain Meadow and Woodland Lake Park with an estimated 500+ high school mountain bikers.

Lynn also talked about the White Mountains Community Town Hall on June 9 from 8:30 to noon in the Show Low Whipple school gym that will discuss Funding PreK-12 Education in Arizona. Table facilitators and recorders are needed. Those interested can register with Nick (lundaz@cablone.net or 928-241-2444).



In cooperation with Fire Awareness there will be a community project May 20th at Woodland Lake.

Kathryn Melsted described metal signs being produced for Woodland Lake Park trails.

Jim Snitzer circulated an envelope for donations for a memorial bench honoring Biff Golladay that will replace an existing bench in Woodland Lake Park.

Following the meeting, Ruth Nelson lead a hike around Woodland Lake Park and several members went cross country skiing.

Trail Crew will resume work when the weather allows. The trail crew, under Jim Snitzer's instruction, sharpened all of the tools and are ready to go when it dries out.

Regional Science Fair: (from Lynn)

TRACKS members donated \$259 to go toward gift cards for the winners of this fair to go to the State competition. Thanks to all who donated! I wish I could say we had similar success in finding judges and people to sit at a TRACKS/Nature Center table to tell people about our events and hand out trail guides. It seems

everyone is busy which is a good thing! [\(If you find you can have some free time on Saturday, March 4th, and want to be involved, call Lynn Krigbaum at \(928\)242-8814\).](#)



Walk for the Woods news (from Lynn)

The Walk For The Woods committee welcomed 2 new TRACKS members and a Save Our Park member at the January meeting. All of us are busily trying to obtain sponsorships from area groups and businesses now. We could still use a few more helpers and ideas if you would like to join us. [Our next meeting is February 25th at 7:30AM at Darbi's. At the next](#)

[TRACKS meeting \(March 11th\) I will pass another envelope around for sponsorship of the Walk for the Woods since as you know TRACKS funds can only go for trail related items.](#) If you can't attend the meeting and would like to donate, please send a check written to TRACKS with W4W in the memo line to Kathryn Melsted, [911 Mission Lane, Show Low, AZ 85901](#). Be sure to "Save the Date" of June 3rd for Walk for the Woods.

Biff's Bench

Our long time TRACKS member, trail crew member, trail steward and all around good friend Biff Golliday died. To honor his memory, we are hoping replace one of the original benches at Woodland Lake Park with a new one like the ones honoring Joanne and Keith on Show Low Bluff. To contribute to this effort, please bring money or a check to the March meeting or send a check written to TRACKS with "Biff's Bench" in the memo line and send it to Kathryn Melsted, [911 Mission Lane, Show Low, AZ 85901](mailto:kathryn@tracks.org).



to

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@cableone.net or call 928-241-2444. More detailed information will be sent later. Please share this information with others.

The Arizona Bobcat: The bobcat, though seldom seen, is very common and found throughout the state. Usually an overall orange to gray in color with black markings, these medium-sized cats have a length of from 2 to 2 ½ feet and weigh between 12 and 30 pounds. The chest, belly and inner side of their legs are white with black spots, and their ears usually have small tufts. The bobcat's most distinguishing characteristic, however, is its short, 5- inch tail, which is always less than 1/4 of the length of its head and body. This feature, coupled with the animal's black spotting, can be used to distinguish bobcats from any other feline in Arizona, wild or domestic.



Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets: If you see a bobcat near your home, there is no need to panic. Bobcats rarely attack people. However, if a bobcat does attack a human, it generally will have symptoms of rabies. Bobcats may be attracted to a yard that has abundant wildlife, domestic birds, small pets, water, and shade or other shelter. Small pets need to be protected from bobcats and other predators. Keep small pets indoors, in an enclosed area with a roof, or on a leash when outside. Domestic birds should be kept in an enclosed area with a sturdy roof (a 6-foot tall fence is not necessarily good protection), and do not spread seed that attracts other wildlife. Do not feed bobcats, as this can encourage them to become too comfortable around humans.

What Attracts Them? Bobcats may visit an area to find food, water, shelter, or the space they need to live. Food may include birds, rodents, rabbits, small unattended pets, poultry or other domestic birds, and other small livestock. Water in pools, birdbaths, fountains, and pets' water dishes can attract bobcats. They will sometimes defecate in shallow water (such as pools and fountains).

Shelter for bobcats can include rooftops, attics, and the space underneath decks. Other small spaces can make attractive dens also, and bobcats will sometimes rest during the day or bask in the sun. This makes them attracted to thick brush, shade, and unoccupied yards.

What Should You Do? You may choose to watch and enjoy a bobcat or bobcat family sharing your yard. However, if you have small pets or livestock, you may want to discourage the bobcat from coming onto your property. Remember, your neighbor may think differently, and it is always a good idea to keep wildlife wild.

For more information about Arizona Bobcats visit the Game and Fish website at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/living-with-bobcats/>



A group of TRAILS mountain bikers gathered East of Apache Junction for a desert ride, since the White Mountains Trail System trails are snowy and muddy.



Mortensen Wash, Juniper Ridge trail between J10 and J11. Wash floods every year. If hikers want to complete the short loop or complete trail, they need to check before beginning their hike at trailhead or Lewis Campground.

	CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
March 1, Wednesday	Audubon Monthly Meeting: Movie <i>Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air</i>	6:30 PM at Pinetop-Lakeside Council Chambers
March 4, Saturday	Regional Science Fair Volunteer judges needed.	NPC Performing Arts Center in Snowflake. For more information, call Lynn Krigbaum at (928)242-8814).
March 9, Thursday	TRACKS Board Meeting	1:00 PM Parks & Rec. TRACKS members welcome
March 11, Saturday	TRACKS General Meeting	8:00 AM Darbi's Restaurant Arrive early to order breakfast
Mondays	Trailwork: Contact Liz at lizw01@frontiernet.net for details or Nick at lundaz@cableone.net to add your name to mailing list	Trail Crew will resume work when weather allows
Wednesdays	Up the Hill Gang Hikes 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.



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