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## October 2017 Newsletter

**September TRACKS Meeting:** There were about 52 people in attendance at the final General meeting and Potluck of the season held at Woodland Lake Park. New members, Kim and Ian Colby, and guests, Annette Riley, Jill Middleston and Mic Leahy were introduced.

**White Mountain Trail System:** Nick announced that he had met with Ed Collins and was **given approval to store the TRACKS trailer behind the Forest Service Lakeside office, locked behind a gate.** Nick gave kudos to Hi Fi Design for donating the signage on our trailer. **Nick talked about the fast growing popularity of mountain biking.** A five mile course is being planned near Mountain Meadows for the future. Show Low is considering building a five mile inner trail and an eight mile outer trail



from Fool Hollow Lake and extending farther to connect to the White Mountain Trail System. There are many details to be worked out such as NEPA, funding, etc. Nick will meet with Forest Service September 18 to discuss these plans.

**The Lions Club of Phoenix is taking over the Rim Trail in Lakeside. They have asked TRACKS to assume maintenance,** which TRACKS can do so long as we are not maintaining the asphalt part of the trail. Nick will meet with Lions Club in October to go over details. Jim Snitzer suggested placement of signage visible from Hwy. 260 to alert vehicles about the scenic overlook.



**Bruce Sitko is on a Wild Horse Working Group** that will evaluate issues regarding the problem of wild horses and report to Forest Service and AZ Game & Fish.

## **Announcements:**

**John Davis reminded the group of the dedication of Keith's Bench on Show Low Bluff trail at 10 AM after the meeting. Drinks will be available.**

**Jan Newton passed a signup sheet for TRACKS adopted mile cleanup** near the junction of Hwy 260 and Hwy 60 on October 17 at 9 AM. Meet at Show Low Park Large Ramada for vests, bags and final instructions. Wear sturdy shoes, gloves, hat and bring water. Refreshments will be provided back at the ramada when the clean up is done.



**Nick explained details of Tour of White Mountains bike race** on October 7. The 750 racing slots are nearly filled. There will be 50, 35, 30 and 9 mile options. Epic Rides donates funds to all participating volunteer groups. Any food left over will go to the Love Kitchen.

**Lynn announced that volunteers are needed September 14 & 15** to help clean up after tree thinning being done along Hwy 260 between Latigo and Branding Iron, hauling limbs and debris to be shredded and chipped. Work will be done between 7:30 AM and 5 PM both days. Park along Deep Forest off of Branding Iron.

**Lynn announced Fall Festival September 23 & 24** at Charlie Clarks where she needs volunteers for the TRACKS booth. Run to the Pines Cool Running race will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at Woodland Lake Park. Volunteers are needed to register runners and hand out packets starting at 6:30 AM and people are needed to help at the aid stations along the route.

**There will be a Burger Burn Thursday, September 21 at Mountain Meadows** from 5 to 7 PM, hosted by the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. Volunteers needed.

**Nature Center annual fund raising dinner takes place at Honda Saturday, September 16,** from 5 to 9 PM. Doors open at 4:30. Lynn mentioned some valuable items donated for raffle. There will also be live and silent auctions and music provided by a DJ.

**Nick announced that TRACKS will provide an aid station for the 30 mile Breast Cancer Walk called Sue's Crew.** More details will be available in March 2018.

**Jim Snitzer talked about Walking Down Ranch, headed by Maggie Heath, working on renovating Rainbow Lake Lodge in Lakeside** to house veterans in need. There are 17 cabins. Much labor and materials are needed as the cabins have been badly vandalized. TRACKS will be helping with outside yard work September 19 starting at 6:30 AM.

**Nick announced a Conference For Tourism to be held at Pinetop Country Club off Buck Springs October 12 & 13.** TRACKS and Nature Center will share a booth and Nick and Rosemary Huylebroeck will lead short hikes in the area. Volunteers needed for the TRACKS/Nature Center booth - call or text Lynn (928) 242-8814 or email [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) if you can help. Nick will serve on the panel for tourism.

**Nick is asking members to submit volunteer hours.** He will total these for his annual report to town councils. These hours can include volunteer hours **of any kind including activities outside of TRACKS.**

**Liz Jernigan invited members to attend a birding event at Fool Hollow September 30 at 8 AM.** Admission fee will be waived if you tell the gatekeeper you are with Audubon.

Meetings through the fall and winter will be held at Darbi's in Pinetop.

**Trail Care Program** : The Trail Crew has been hard at work preparing trails for the Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race, including repairs on the Chipmunk connector, the Four Springs Trail, Los Burros and Springs Trail. Emphasis has been on removing rocks and creating and repairing drainage to prevent water damage to trails.



**The Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race** will be held Saturday, October



7, with the race starting at the Pinetop Lakeside Equestrian Center on Buck Springs Road at the corner of Mark Twain. Volunteers can pick up their packages including T-shirts on Friday, October 6, beginning at 4:30 PM at that location. Instructions to participating volunteers will be given along with a dinner provided by Epic Rides starting at 5:00.

## **The recent installation of new “wayfinding” signs in Woodland Lake Park**

is making it easier for both locals and visitors to explore the diverse areas of the park as well as Big Springs Environmental Area and White Mountain Nature Center. Prior to their installation many areas did not have signs or the signage information was inadequate.

Because of its location and proximity to various destination points, Woodland Lake Park has several trails from streets and neighborhoods as well as trails from activity centers within the park and those adjacent to it. Over seven miles of trails crisscross each other numerous times as they lead to different points of interest inside the park and to Big Springs and the Nature Center. In the past year it became increasingly evident that users needed help in navigating the maze of trails, both locals and visitors.



TRACKS, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, and Lakeside Ranger District of Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests worked together designing and installing signs to make the park more user friendly. They created annotated maps of the trail system geared toward reaching all users, both experienced and novice.



To allow users to orient themselves once they are in the trail system, the team designed individual “You are here” signs for 11 different critical sites within the park. Each sign includes locations of coded diamonds for individuals who may require emergency assistance. Users may locate popular trails which are designated by color with both their

names and length provided. Parking locations and mileage rule are also included.

To ensure permanence and stability, the team had the maps laminated to a heavy duty sign material of 2 pieces of aluminum permanently bonded to a polycarbonate core. The signs were then mounted on steel posts located throughout the park.

Since their installation, public response has been very favorable. Users are realizing the diversity of the park and are able to determine how best to reach a destination. Thanks to TRACKS, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, and Lakeside Ranger District of Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests for their cooperative efforts in a worthwhile community project.

**Liz Wise Receives Recognition** from Pinetop-Lakeside Mayor Stephanie Irwin and from Ed Collins of the Forest Service in appreciation for her many years of service as TRACKS' Trail Boss, maintaining trails and building new trails in the White Mountains Trail System.



**Trunk or Treat:** Enjoy this event where Kay Alderton and friend dress up and decorate the back of her Jeep in Halloween array. She gives out candy and trail guides representing TRACKS. Kay has been doing this event for several years, replacing traditional trick or treating so kids aren't out on the streets.

**The Nature Center Annual Benefit Dinner** was held September 16<sup>th</sup> at Hon-Dah and was the most successful fundraiser to date. Thank you to all the TRACKS members who participated by either attending the event or donating to the cause.



**Yoga & Hiking at Mt. Baldy with Rosie & Kimberly on Friday, October 13:**

This event is free for the whole community; donations are accepted for TRACKS

8:30 AM meet at Hon-Dah parking lot to caravan to Mt. Baldy  
Yoga at the base of Baldy, hike and lunch and more yoga

(Pack your own lunch)

Back at Hon-Dah at 1:30 PM

Sponsored by Open Spaces

Yoga Center

[www.OpenSpacesYoga.com](http://www.OpenSpacesYoga.com)

**Adventures Along the Trail:** We are adding a new feature this month to the Newsletter where we will include interesting experiences our members have had while using our trails. If you would like to share an adventure of your own, we will be happy to share it with our readers. Here is the first one submitted by Nick Lund:

Several senior women, including one TRACKS member, were hiking on the Timber Mesa trail and inadvertently went off on an unauthorized trail, realized they were on the wrong trail and did not have enough water to return the way they had come from. So they called 911, reported the code on the nearest emergency responder diamond, and were rescued in less than 30 minutes from the time they called. About two weeks later, the TRACKS trail crew was starting out to work on the Los Burros trail, and noticed a trail hiker sitting on the back of his pickup, eating some breakfast, and letting his dog run. In talking with him, TRACKS president Nick Lund asked him if he had noticed the newly installed emergency responder diamonds on the Los Burros. He threw up both hands and exclaimed, "God bless the white diamonds!". When asked why such a response, he said, "One of the women recently rescued on the Timber Mesa is my wife."

**A Rainy Cool Running Day:** This was the first Cool Running day in a number of years when the participants had to run in the rain. But run they did. All but three of those who had signed up for the race in advance showed up for their t-shirts and numbers and there were many same day sign-ups as well. Not everyone completed the race and very few took advantage of the water stations, but they did run and the event was successful as always.



## SNAPSHOTS



TRACKS members at the clearing effort off Branding Iron Nature Center property, wood going to Walking Down Ranch.



### High School MTB Race

This is what 700 high school cyclists look like at the starting line! Super fun for kids and grandparents



In August, 10 TRACKS members, along with friends of members, went on a Bike and Barge trip to Germany, France, and Luxembourg, averaging 30 plus miles of biking per day. It was easy riding for this group after training in our beautiful local forest. The group had a great time as well as plenty of great food. Below: Nick attempts a Herculean dessert.





**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>September 30, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Audubon Field Trip: Birding</u></b>	<b>8:00 AM. Meet at main entrance to Fool Hollow</b>
<b>October 4, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Audubon Monthly Meeting:</u></b> The topic will be about a nesting box project being conducted by the Hanridge family	<b>6:30 PM in Council Chambers, 1360 Niels Hanson, Lakeside</b>
<b>October 4, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes Green's Peak. Color Hike</u></b>	<b>7:45 AM meet at KFC Pinetop 6 miles moderate hiking \$5 carpool</b>
<b>October 7, Saturday</b>	<b><u>Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race</u></b>	<b>7:30 AM Volunteers see schedule re specific assignments and times</b>
<b>October 11, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes Pole Knoll #602</u></b>	<b>7:45 AM Meet at KFC parking lot. 6 miles moderate hiking. \$5 carpool</b>
<b>October 12, Thursday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS Board Meeting</u></b>	<b>1:-00 PM at The Nature Center TRACKS members welcome</b>
<b>October 13, Friday</b>	<b><u>Yoga &amp; Hiking at Mt Baldy with Rosie and Kimberly</u></b>	<b>8:30 AM meet at Honda to car pool. Bring lunch. Back at Honda 1:30 PM</b>
<b>October 14, Saturday</b>	<b><u>TRACKS General Meeting</u></b>	<b>8:00 AM at Darbi's. Come early to order breakfast</b>
<b>October 18 Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike Juniper Ridge #640</u></b>	<b>7:45 AM meet at K-Mart 5 miles moderate to difficult hiking. \$2 carpool</b>
<b>October 25, Wednesday</b>	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hike Ghost of the Coyote #641</u></b>	<b>7:45 AM Meet Kmart in Show Low 6 miles moderate to difficult hiking. Carpool \$2.</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b><u>Trail crew will meet so long as weather allows for trail work</u></b>	<b>Get on mailing list with Nick <a href="mailto:lundaz@cablone.net">lundaz@cablone.net</a> to get notifications re time and place</b>



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