

**THE PRESIDENT'S DESK****Steven Dobbs, President**

The new, improved Buena Vista Trail System is about to become a reality. We are in the last stage before Forest Service sign-off, letting us start constructing some new trails. We expect this to occur the first of May.

Here is our progress: We have made 53 wooden signs from redwood showing the names of trails with directional arrows. Each trail marker will indicate the trail difficulty. We also have 18 "You are Here" map signs that are 9" x 15" in size scattered around the various trail intersections. Buena Vista is a 'stacked loop' system with the central Buena Vista loop being 7.5 miles in length. There are several loops attached to BV giving us a total of 20 miles of unique trails. We will update our website with the new detailed maps as soon as we have the sign-off. We will also be updating the map on the kiosk and paper maps in the information box.

Our first priority will be constructing the "Rainbows" and "Sunshine" trails which will be a total of 3-miles in length. These will be easy "green" trails close to the BV trailhead and have been tightly flagged making them easy to follow and construct.

Our first construction date will be Monday, May 11th at 8:00 at the Buena Vista trailhead. The TRACKS tool trailer will be there with plenty of tools for all. We will carpool 1.2 miles on Rim Road /FR300 to the worksite. For those of you who have never built a trail before, here is your chance.

😊 Hope to see you there!

**TRAIL CREW****Garth Orkney, Denny Humphrey, and Jerry Good, Coordinators**

Trail Crew Mondays are off and running for the 2026 season! Thanks to all the eager members - old and new - that have helped us get off to a great start in spite of having a short day on April 6th due to blustery weather.

New this year is our TRACKS A-frame sign (see photo) which will be with us every Monday. It is important for the public to know who is doing all the good trail work here in the White Mountains! Hopefully some of the hikers out there will see the sign, get involved and contribute to TRACKS by joining the Trail Crew.

Lastly, exciting news! We are expecting USFS approval of the new Buena Vista Trail System around the first of May. For those who don't know, these beautiful trails are a few miles south of Show Low off Highway 60. Long time social trails, we will soon be putting up signs, enhancing the existing trails, and adding two new trails. These trails will be a proud addition to the already over 200 miles of dramatic trails we currently maintain.

We are always welcoming new members to the Trail Crew. Come join the fun! No experience necessary.



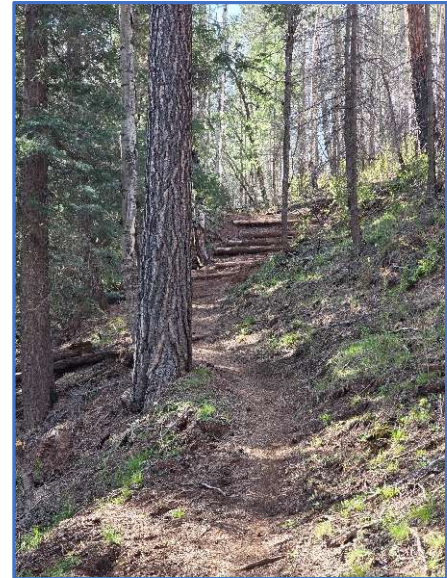
**TRAIL STEWARDS**

**Ron Miller, Coordinator**

Just a reminder to all trail stewards to check all our respective trails again to make sure that trail conditions are good and clean-up any trash or downed limbs. Also, there has been an uptick in downed trees crossing trails. Please let me know if it's a tree, due to size, cannot be resolved by the trail steward. A little prevention goes a long way!

So that hikers don't become disoriented or lost, please also make sure that junctions are well-signed and that trail marker diamonds are easily visible (in both directions). By staying on top of trail issues, we can keep trails safe and available for the hiking public.

Most of our Trail Steward positions are currently filled, but we are always looking for enthusiastic folks when there are openings. Please let me know if you are interested in helping improve one of our trails by being a volunteer. Just send an email to Ron Miller at [tracks\\_ts@yahoo.com](mailto:tracks_ts@yahoo.com) (don't forget the "underscore" between "tracks" and "ts" – or the email won't go through!)



**TRAILHEAD ADOPTERS**

**Joan Patrick, Coordinator**



We need volunteers for trailhead adopters for two trails: Los Burros and Juniper Ridge. Trailhead Adopters place maps in the trailhead kiosk boxes and pick up around the kiosk.

If you are interested or know someone who would like to help out, please email Joan Patrick at [joanpatrick933@gmail.com](mailto:joanpatrick933@gmail.com) or call 928-242-7220.

**WOODEN TRAIL SIGNS**

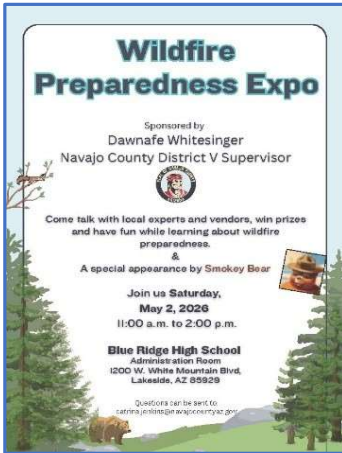
**Kat Westberg, Contributor**

Some of our wooden trail signs show some wear. If you notice a damaged or missing sign, please send an email to: [katjwestberg@gmail.com](mailto:katjwestberg@gmail.com). Please provide your name, email address, name of trail, trail location (e.g., TM5) and description of the sign and/or a photo if possible.

After the TRACKS General Meeting on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, we plan to make any needed signs at Jim Snitzer's house. Please come if you can. Send me an email for more information.



**WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS EXPO** **Cathy Purvis, Contributor**



**Saturday, May 2nd  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Blue Ridge High School**

Please attend this important and informative expo - a joint effort by Navajo County and our local fire departments. Listen to the experts present data on wildfire mitigation!

Don't forget to drop by the TRACKS booth to say "Hi" to Lynn and the TRACKS volunteers. If you would like to help "man" the TRACKS table, please call or text Lynn Krigbaum: 928-242-8814

**HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP** **Lynn Krigbaum, Coordinator**

This is a reminder that we will be completing one of our twice-a-year Highway Cleanup events this month!

- **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - TRACKS mile cleanup on Rte. 260
  - meet at 8:00 am at the Fun Park.
- **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**
  - Nature Center mile cleanup
  - meet at 8:00 am at the Lakeside Forest Service office.



Please wear closed-toed shoes, a hat, bring ample water and wear gloves. After we finish our work - which is usually about two hours - *muffins will be available for our hard-working volunteers on both days.* We will certainly appreciate your help!!

**DIAMOND PARTY** **Cathy Purvis, Contributor**

In preparation of the new trails going into Buena Vista, Joan Patrick hosted a number of "talented" trail crew members to finish affixing decals onto the Emergency Diamond signs. The group worked hard to finish all 172 diamonds!

We also would like to do a "shout-out" to Michelle at High 5 Design for donating the many letter/number decals for our trail system! Thank you Michelle for supporting TRACKS all these years!



**THE 100 MILE CLUB****Destiny Medaje, Coordinator**

This year, we are adding a fun initiative to our hikes:

***The 100 Mile Club.***

We encourage everyone to participate in as many TRACKS hikes as possible with the goal of reaching 100 miles by the end of the hike season. Those who do will be inaugurated in the first ever 100 Mile Club. Easy peasy!

Sign those hike waivers, watch out for monthly updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and take lots of photos and videos. Speaking of, please assist in documenting everyone's endeavors and email your photos/videos to [photosfortracks@gmail.com](mailto:photosfortracks@gmail.com) or text them to 928-238 1329.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING****Kelly Milligan, Coordinator**

Mountain Bike rides will begin on Saturday, May 2nd at the designated Saturday start location. Subsequent rides will follow at the Tuesday and Thursday starting locations (see below).

Tuesday: [Fire Escape Road \(opposite East Lane\) in Pinetop](#)

Thursday: [Junction of Forest Roads 185 & 271](#)

Saturday: [Junction of Forest Roads 182 & 7](#)

A helmet is required. Make sure your bike is in good, rideable condition. Don't forget ample hydration. Anyone with questions can contact me by email at [milligan-kelly@yahoo.com](mailto:milligan-kelly@yahoo.com).

**HIKE: TUESDAY TREKKERS****Heather Steiner, Coordinator**

Starting Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Trekkers will begin our Tuesday morning hikes beginning at 8:00 a.m. Enjoy our 3-mile hikes through beautiful and interesting places. Save the information below for our May hikes as a helpful reminder. All are welcome to take a hike with the Tuesday Trekkers. No doubt, you will want to join for more hikes!!

For free hiking maps of TRACKS trails go to [www.trackswitemountains.org/trail-maps-and-gpx](http://www.trackswitemountains.org/trail-maps-and-gpx). Another option is to purchase *Take a Hike: A Comprehensive White Mountain Trails Guide* for \$5:00 at the White Mountain Nature Center.

Please meet at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the parking lot on the south side of the Pinetop McDonalds. All hikes are about 3 miles. We ride share to the trailhead so as not to overwhelm the parking lot or the environment. For short drives, \$2 person is the recommended ride share donation; for longer rides \$5.00 for person is recommended. For more information email Ed Gorny at [eigorny@gmail.com](mailto:eigorny@gmail.com).



**May 5<sup>th</sup> Walnut Creek via Big Springs**

For nature lovers, enjoy hiking along a stream which leads to the Big Springs natural area with migratory fowl all year long. Beaver occupy a lodge on the Big Springs pond which connects the Woodland Lake via Turkey Track or Hitching Post Trails.

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Fool Hollow Lake Area**

A 1.5-mile walking trail runs along the south and west sides of the lake. Wild interesting opportunities are more readily seen from the trail as well. Take a stroll, bring your binoculars, and see how many different bird and animal species you can encounter! Ron Miller will be our fantastic leader.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Billy Creek Connector**

It is a cool shaded trip up along Billy Creek and Thompson Creek riparian areas. There are beautiful mountain meadows along the trail. Spring trail is linked to Blue Ridge Trail by the very short Little Bear Connector Trail heading north between S3 AND S4. Spring Trail #632, a cool Creek and Thompson Creek riparian areas with beautiful mountain meadows along the trail, too.

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Country Club Trail: #632**

Country Club trail, close to Pinetop, is one of the most popular in the White Mountains. It has, gently sloping rises and downhills. Some beautiful, old, gnarled Alligator Juniper trees are found along the trail. Tree thinning has been done as part of the effort to mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

**HIKE: UP THE HILL GANG** **Kay Alderton, Coordinator**  
**(Wednesdays)**

It's time for the Up the Hill Gang to get going on Wednesday mornings! Most hikes are between 3-6 miles. Please be sure to show up on time, bring ample water, wear appropriate shoes, bring/wear a hat, and sunscreen. Due to limited parking at trailheads, we often carpool to the trailhead. Recommendations for rideshare costs are listed in the schedule below. Any questions, please contact Kay Alderton at 928-367-7003 or send an email to [info@trackswitemountains.org](mailto:info@trackswitemountains.org).

**May 6<sup>th</sup> [Springs Trail](#)** Hike Leader: Kay Alderton  
 \*Difficulty: Easy  
 Distance: 3.5 miles  
 Meeting Time: 6:45 am  
 Meeting Location: McDonald's Parking lot (south side), Pinetop  
 Ride Share: \$2

**May 13<sup>th</sup> [Country Club #632 & Pat Mullen Scenic Vista](#)** Hike Leader: Lynn Krigbaum  
 \*Difficulty: Moderate  
 Distance: 4.25 miles  
 Meeting Time: 6:45 am  
 Meeting Location: McDonald's Parking lot (south side), Pinetop  
 Ride Share: \$2

**May 20<sup>th</sup> [Ghost of the Coyote / West side](#)** Hike Leader: Charmi Wecker  
 \*\*Difficulty: Easy  
 Distance: 4.5 miles  
 Meeting Time: 6:45 am

Meeting Location: Show Low Park, parking lot off of Rte. 260,  
(between baseball & soccer fields)

Ride Share: \$2

May 27<sup>th</sup>

[Buena Vista Trail #637](#) (a portion)

Hike Leader: Kat Westberg

\*Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 5.0 miles

Meeting Time: 6:45 am

Meeting Location: Show Low Park, parking lot off of Rte. 260,  
(between baseball & soccer fields)

Ride Share: \$2

\*As rated by the US Forest Service.

\*\* As rated by TRACKS

## HIKE: NATURE CENTER (Saturdays)

Lynn Krigbaum, Contributor



The White Mountain Nature Center hikes will be available again this summer! As in the past, Every Saturday, all summer long hikes begin at the Nature Center at 8:30 am for a 1.5 hour hike with a leader.

Want to know more? Go to [wmnature.org](http://wmnature.org).

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

<b>TRAIL CREW</b>	8:00 am Monday	Hard hat & tools provided.	*Please wear good boots, gloves, sunscreen and bring ample water.
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKE</b>	8:30 am Tues / Thurs / Sat	Rides range from 15 - 25 miles.	*HELMETS REQUIRED* *Bring plenty of fluids
<b>HIKE</b>	Tues: Tuesday Trekkers Wed: Up the Hill Gang	Tues: 8:00 am – 3 miles or less Wed: 3-6 mile hikes	*Please wear appropriate footwear and bring sunscreen and ample water. <b>*Dogs must be on a leash.*</b>
<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	May 7th	1:00 pm Thursday	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W White Mountain Blvd Lakeside
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	May 9th	8:00 am Saturday *2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month*	Sal and Teresa's, 455 Woodland Rd Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ